



Creating and Running a Successful KIDabra Chapter

KIDabra International

Chapter #1

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THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY & KID SHOW PERFORMERS

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Creating and Running a Successful KIDabra Chapter

By Dennis Michael

Part I: Starting Up a Chapter

Would you like to have a lot of magical fun, learn new methods for performing for children and be with those, like yourself, who enjoy entertaining children? It is really easy to do. There are only two requirements:

1. Be a Member of KIDabra International (KI)
2. Have seven (7) KI members listed on a Chapter request form.

By the fact you are receiving a KIDabra Journal, means you are a member of KIDabra International. If you are reading this article because you borrowed it or received it by some other means, join today by logging on to www.KIDabra.org or www.KIDabra.com and that is the first step. By joining KIDabra, you receive lots of benefits one is helping you to create a successful Chapter.

The second requirement might be a little harder, because you might be in a location where there are only a few known KIDabra members, so you must create new members. To do this create a “Children’s Entertainment Club”. Then invite known entertainers of children to a group meeting. This is very important because you must create a family of people, like yourself, who are excited about what they do. It is this excitement, friendly atmosphere, and your enthusiasm will spark and keep alive this group.

Finding Children Entertainers

Where do you find these children entertainers? The local IBM, SAM and Clown Alleys have children entertainers that perform magic. Yes, a key is they perform Magic. This avoids the club from being another clown association. Those that are clowns do add a lot to the club because they are well versed on “silly” and “Silly is Good”. Kids love silly stuff, so magicians can learn a lot from clowns. Likewise, clowns learn a lot from magicians. One of the Top children entertainers in New York is “Silly Billy”. More and more clowns are removing the face painting and combining their silliness with magic and becoming excellent children entertainers.

In many IBM and SAM organization they devote one meeting towards children entertainers and may be they will have a children entertainer guest lecture. Within that group sits these children entertainers just observing each meeting and not getting involved. This is where you invite them to your “Children’s Entertainment Club”.

Here are some other methods to seek out new members by:

- Checking the Yellow pages under Entertainers and Magicians
- Send a letter to the editor of the local papers.
- Try getting free publicity with the local radio & TV talk shows.
- Use members wanted posters, flyers, etc.
- Place an invitation guest card in your local library magic books.
- Ask the members you already have to join in on the search.

Treat Each Other Like Family

Once they do arrive, it is your job to get them involved, either by letting them perform or teaching them something new each meeting. Keep a supply of coffee, cookies and water to keep them content. Treat them like family. Make sure all members welcome them and at the break talk to them, find out what they like. Find out what they would like to see demonstrated. Make them feel important each meeting. If they are having a good time, then they will come back. If you send them home with a new trick or part of a routine, they will come back for more. Remember, excitement and enthusiasm breeds excitement and enthusiasm. Excitement and enthusiasm is a major key for success.

Minimized the Dreaded Business Portion of the Meeting

The death of an organization is boredom. To prevent boredom, the business meeting portion should be as short as possible. (Zero to ten minutes is ideal.) A business meeting beyond 30 minutes, triggers business meeting boredom so avoid this when possible. Yes, there may be meeting where this may exceed 30 minutes and once a year is OK. Sometimes, Chapter #1 forgets the business meeting portion of the evening because we are all having a good time socializing and getting involved in the topic for the evening.

Pride in Being a KIDabra International Member

Wear your KIDabra shirts at every meeting, have KIDabra applications laying on the table, even put a picture of Mark and Tami next to the applications...well, I wouldn't go that far! When asked about it, tell it like it is! Talk about the KIDabra Family, the learning environment, the many dealers devoted to magic for children, the lectures, the marketing sessions, the breakout sessions, the late night meetings, the shows, and all the fun you had at the Conference. Talk about the next Conference. It's nothing like any other convention. If you are excited about the Conference, then that will come out when you speak about it. Do not be pushy for a quick membership at this time. If you do you may lose them because it may sound like a hard sell. When they enjoy the local meetings, they will see others joining KIDabra and then soft sell them on the KIDabra Journal, benefits of becoming a member. There are no other magic magazines that focus on children magic entertainment. The magazine is worth the annual fee required of membership to KIDabra International. Ask them if they would like to be a Charter Member of a Local KIDabra Chapter. This is history in the making and a positive sell for the creation of a Chapter. They will forever be remembered as a Charter Member.

Charter Membership

When applying for a Charter, there only needs to be seven KIDabra International Members on that Charter application. However, in your local Chapter, allow as many as you can to become a Charter Members in your local Chapter. If a member join the local Chapter within four to six month they become a Charter member of your local.

Minimize the Cost of Local Membership and Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Another killer of an organization is when a member is always reaching in their pocket to give to the organization to keep it fiscally sound. Most children entertainers belong to another organization such as IBM and SAM. Most members of Chapter #1 belong to at least two clubs, some belong three or four other clubs. After a while one must begin to evaluate which club is most beneficial, and focus on that organization. It would be nice if your KIDabra Chapter was high on that list. Avoid all dues coming in at the same time. IBM and SAM annual dues are due the month you joined, and this is good. Since August is the Annual KIDabra International Conference and membership is required, this is when International dues should be paid. Local Chapter Dues would best be paid in January, the start of the new year. This way the fee for the conference, the fee for the International, and the fee for the local Chapter dues are not all due at the same time. Staggering these fees makes it easier on the home budget.

In starting up, allow guest to attend up to January. (August-January) This gives them time to become part of the KIDabra family. Guests after January should join both KIDabra International and the Local Chapter prior to the Conference so they can attend the Conference as a Chapter Member, someone special, a member of an international family of children performers. Many times the spouse joins KIDabra International as a non-performer. As an International Member, there is no reason why this person cannot be a member of your local Chapter.

Local Chapter Membership Fees:

Below are suggested membership fees for your Local Chapter:

Type of Membership	Membership Fee
Member	\$25.00
Spouse (Performing)	\$10.00
Spouse (Non-Performing)	Free
Honorary	Free

All Memberships require KIDabra International Membership. A local Chapter Member is the key performer. If the Spouse also performs, their dues are \$10.00. If the spouse, does not perform but attends the meetings sometimes, attends lectures, or just accompanies their love one to the meeting as a driver or companion, then their dues should be free; there is really no need to charge these persons when their interest in children magic is either low or non-existing. Remember you want to establish a family of friends, not chase away potential members by being rigid; they already paid their dues to

KIDabra International. An Honorary member is left up to the Chapter to decide who that person shall be. When Mark and Tami Daniel drove up from North Carolina to attend New Jersey Chapter #1, and they are the founders of KIDabra International, we are honored to have them as lifetime honorary members. Also, voting privileges are reserved only to Members and Performing Spouse Members.

To speed up the requirement for creating a local Chapter, you and your spouse are two members, two others with their spouses is a total of six members, add one more and you have the needed quota to apply for a Charter. After that, just work on each month bringing a Guest to the meeting. Within a year, you could have a dozen members.

Lecture Fees

Ideally lecture fees to the members should be free, if not then it must be significantly lower than Guests. Guest should be required to pay \$15 for a Lecture. This is high enough to want them to join. Each year there should be two guest lecturers and this is an incentive for the Guest to become a member. The Lecture could be a regular meeting or a special meeting. The special meeting would just focus on the lecturer. Generally, the fee for a guest lecture is around \$200.00 plus a room for the night.

Meeting Location

This is most likely the number one reason for a Chapter to be successful. If the Chapter is small and the Chapter must pay for a location to meet, it means monthly out-of-pocket expenses, a key component to a death of an organization. The best location has several good components. The first is that it is FREE, or at the very least almost free. Chapter members who are members of American Legion Posts, VFWs, Volunteer Firefighters, or similar organizations, including religious organizations, they can use the facilities for free or a significantly reduced monthly fee which the dues can handle. If it has a stage, that even makes it better!

An alternative is selecting an organization which you offer an Annual Fundraiser or Children's Magic Show for that organization in lieu of a monthly fee. This has proven well for many other local magic clubs. A Christmas Show Works well.

The location should be free from distractions. Some restaurants will offer a room but they also expect members to order something. This is an out-of-pocket expense and an increase in the waistline, which should be avoided. In addition there will be distractions from the staff as well as the public. Any location like malls, court yards, etc. should be avoided. A meeting in someone's home who has a large recreation room would be a better choice, providing the distractions from the family pet, kids (they come in handy when you need a kid for a routine), and the phone.

When starting out, location should be the number one priority. We found a nice community theater that wanted \$100 a month but did not want to bargain for a free show for their organization. They were willing to allow us to use their 100 seat theater for a

magic show and they would help us advertise. This was and is still very tempting, however, we would need to pull in \$1,200 a year to pay for the room rental and provide proof of a two million dollar liability insurance policy. Having no budget or membership dues at this start-up time eliminated this a potential choice of locations, maybe sometime in the future this theater would be a possibility.

The location also should be within reach of the membership. Chapter #1 present location, my magic theater within my house, is farther than the other organizations; however, it doesn't stop those that are about an hour away from coming to the meeting. One can only surmise the motivational reason for attendance is the fun, learning and participation within the meeting vs. the distance traveled. The room has a magical atmosphere and members are very excited about each meeting agenda. The members feel comfortable trying out new routines, getting positive advise for revising the routine, and being part of a family of children entertainers.

Meeting Day of the Week

The day of meeting is important. There are six magic clubs in the NJ-PA-DE area. IBM Ring 165, meets on the First Monday, IBM Ring 6 meets on the 2nd Monday, Delaware Clown club meets on the 3rd Monday, and the 4th Monday was open. SAM meets on the third Thursday and the 2nd Thursday is another magic/clown club. To keep in line with what we all know is that Mondays and Thursdays are magic and clown meeting nights. It is easier to avoid other days and focus on a day of the week which most area magicians are familiar with as magic nights. The 4th Monday was selected as KIDabra Chapter #1 meeting night. This meant, Mondays was Magic Night, there was something going on every Monday night, at least for 10 months of the year. (4th Monday does sometimes conflict with Memorial and Christmas Holidays)

Meetings in July and August were not planned due to the many conventions, conferences and family vacations held during those two months. Actually we get prepared for the Annual KIDabra Conference and we keep in touch with each other through email. At the Conference, we plan a luncheon together, a photo session, and talk about the Conference. As a family, we keep in touch with each other through-out the conference.

Time of the Meeting

The best times for the meeting are the times other organizations use. Start time begins at 7:00 PM and End time is usually around 11:00 PM. Give a half-hour for members and guests to arrive. Set aside the first hour as a learning and social hour.

A few tips on starting a KIDabra Chapter:

1. Always keep everyone excited by doing fun things.
2. Make the meetings a place to learn by having lectures, teach-inn's, workshops, etc. Learn from each other.
3. Keep KIDabra on the minds of the members with an email newsletter.
4. Give the new KIDabra members special attention.

5. Have regular special events such as dealer demos, magic history night, theme meetings.
6. Make everyone feel a part of the club. (Don't let one or two run the whole show.)
7. Set goals. (Make the topics fun.)
8. Have KIDabra Fundraising show using all the members.
9. Promote good will doing charity shows; make KIDabra known within the community.
10. Who you know is not as important as the ACTIONS you take to make the meeting a success.
11. Let the executive board do the business meeting prior to the club meeting and report to the membership those decisions. Strive to have the business meeting less than 1/2 hour so the rest of the night is devoted to the planned scheduled functions.
12. Well rehearsed routines with a proven track record are far more enjoyable to the membership than poorly performed effects.
13. Diversity within the club is good for KIDabra Chapters.
14. Develop a true sense of camaraderie within the membership and not competitiveness between members. (Leave the egos at the door.)
15. When another is performing, cease to trying to come up with one-liners during a fellow entertainer's routines. Respect the others performance. No cell phones ringing!
16. Pay attention to the lecturers and let them show us their stuff, compliment and thank the lecturer. (Buying everything he has to sell is a strong indicator of a powerful lecture.)
17. And MOST IMPORTANT, plan the meetings for the full year. Include Guest Lecturers.

Summation

In summation, a free meeting location is ideal, a day of the week is selected that matches everyone's schedule, and you continually invite children magicians to attend a special meeting of area children entertainers. The purpose of that meeting is to sharing ideas, teaching each other, improving marketing skills, practicing new skills learned, and helping others improve their routines.

Creating and Running a Successful KIDabra Chapter

By Dennis Michael

Part II: Planning the Meetings

Success in any endeavor depends on organization and planning. A magic show does not go well if it isn't planned, becoming a millionaire require a plan to reach that level. Running a business require some sort of plan. Even running the annual KIDabra Conference requires a plan. Running a Local Chapter is the same as running a business. Dues are collected, elections are held, lectures are hired, and evening events are pre-planned. Successful KIDabra Chapters require planning. The nice thing about planning a Chapter meeting is that it really is easy because KIDabra International has laid the foundation for success.

What is it that makes us want to go back each year to KIDabra International? The answer is in the format presented for the conference. Each year the components of the Conference include, marketing, lectures, break-out workshops, shows, auction, dealers' room, evening socializing, and most importantly, we all treat each other like family. There are no contests, to prove one is better than the next, there are no close-up sessions which focus on finger dexterity, and there are no unfriendly members. Everyone helps everyone, and laughter is plentiful. Yes, occasionally problems do crop up and they are generally handled in a friendly compassionate way.

Notification

A week before the meeting, email all Chapter members of the upcoming meeting and what the Topic or Event for the evening will be. Members who don't have email should be notified by phone or a friend. At other meeting announce or leave a flyer of the scheduled event, include date, time, location, contact phone number, and a brief description of that event. Make new members feel important, and call them personally and see if they have a ride to the meeting location or if there is anything you can do for them, that night. Personalizing the meeting notification makes the receiver feel comfortable around others they might not know.

Meeting Format

Using the format of KIDabra International, Chapter #1, planned each meeting using the basic format:

- 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Review of a Book, Trick, or DVD
- 8:00 PM – 8:30 PM Business Meeting
- 8:30 PM – 9:00 PM Break and Socializing
- 9:00 PM – 10:30 PM Topic for the Evening
- 10:30 PM – 11:00 PM Marketing Tip or Dealer Demonstration

This format is NOT etched in stone. There is a lot of flexibility so members can socialize, eat cookies, drink coffee, water or juice. FRIENDLY is very good and healthy for the Chapter. What is generally left out in other organization is lack of involvement. In a Chapter meeting, everyone gets involved in some level. Acting like a kid, performing, reviewing a product, bringing refreshments, making easy-to-make tricks for everyone to enjoy, whatever is asked of any member, they gladly jump in and offer their services. The goal of each meeting is for each member to leave having learned something new.

With Guest Lectures, suspend the business portion of the meeting and start the lecture promptly at 8:00 PM

At the Conference, members get to see new magic tricks, DVDs, books, and lots of products, in the dealer's room and during lectures. Daily, Mark and Tami Daniel, the founders of KIDabra International, have an informal business meeting with staff and performers. Members socialize during lunch, dinner and after hours. Daily there are lectures, workshops, and lots of learning going on. Prior and at times, during the conference, there are discussions related to improving your magic business; the marketing of your business. The Chapter meetings do parallel these functions and events. The same joy that each member gets from the KIDabra Conference, the local Chapter meeting should provide it's members.

Review of a Book, Trick, or DVD

During this review, usually a member volunteers to review a book, product of DVD a head of time. If not, then the Chapter President asks a head of time for a member to do this task. Assigning someone to do this task is far better than asking for a volunteer. The task should be within the capabilities of the person presenting the task. For instance, ballooning twisting is better left to those who do this task regularly. Presenting an egg bag routine is better left to someone who regularly performs this routine. Book reviews is better from someone who has and read the book.

As Chapter President be prepared for an alternate event should the scheduled reviewer no show up, or couldn't perform the task. This is where the DVD/VHS review comes in handy. What ever the topic for the evening is, there is a DVD related to that topic. This DVD is shown but not in it's entirety. A routine or two and allow for discussion related to that routine to involve the group. If they like what they see, tell them where they can purchase the DVD.

Business Meeting

Below is a formal outline of a well run business meeting. If the schedule warrants it the business meeting can be postponed until the next month. The goal is to complete the business meeting in less than 30 minute. Should a guest lecturer be at this meeting, postpone the business session until next meeting.

Calling the Meeting to Order

7:55 PM: Have all members seated and the President announces:

8:00 PM: (Striking Gavel) *"KIDabra International Chapter #__ Will Now Come to Order"*

Secretary's Report

"The First Order of Business is the Secretary's Report" (Secretary Reads Report)

"Are there any Additions or Corrections to the Minutes?"

"If there are None, Is there a Motion and Second to Accept the Minutes as Read"

"All in Favor signify by Saying AYE. Oppose?"

"The Secretary's Report has been accepted."

Treasurer's Report

8:05 PM: (Approximately)

"Second Order of Business is the Treasurer's Report" (Treasurer Gives Report)

"The Treasurer's Report is accepted as read"

OLD Business

8:10 PM: (Approximately) *"Next on the Agenda is the Matter of Old Business"*

"Is there any Old Business?"

The Floor is now open to any member in good standing to discuss any business that was discussed in a previous meeting. All members are allowed to discuss business. If a motion is made, it must be seconded before discussion occurs on that motion. If the discussion is lengthy, then consider tabling that motion until next meeting. A motion can be revised and seconded by the member making the original motion. After all discussions, the motion is read and recorded and voted upon. (The President can't make a motion or second it.

(Read the Motion) *"All in Favor signify by Saying AYE."*

"All in Opposed signify by Saying NAY."

(If there is no clear-cut answer, then the President calls for a Show of Hands.)

Repeat the same process for additional old business.

New Business

8:15 PM: (Approximately)

"Seeing there is no more Old Business, Next on the Agenda is the Matter of NEW Business"

"Is there any NEW Business?"

The Floor is now open to any member in good standing to discuss any New Business that was NOT discussed in a previous meeting. All members are allowed to discuss NEW business. If a motion is made, it must be seconded before discussion occurs on that motion. If the discussion is lengthy, then consider tabling that motion until next meeting, where it will be covered under Old Business. A motion can be revised and seconded by the member making the original motion. After all discussions, the motion is read and recorded and voted upon.

(Like Old business, Read the Motion)

"All in Favor signify by Saying AYE."

"All in Opposed signify by Saying NAY."

(If there is no clear-cut answer, then the President calls for a Show of Hands.)

Repeat the same process for additional old business.

Good and Welfare

8:25 PM: (Approximately) *"Seeing there is no more New Business, Next on the Agenda is the Matter of the Good and Welfare of the Chapter"*

"Is there any information related to the Sick or Injured Members?"

"Are there any Guest at the Meeting?" (Welcome these guests)

(New Members: Presentation of Membership Card and Certificate)

"Will _____ Come Forward?"

(New Applications: Read to membership. Sergeant-at-Arms escorts new member out of room for a vote by membership)

"Congratulations, you have been accepted in to the KIDabra International Chapter #__!"

"Are there any Notices of Upcoming Conventions, Conferences or Meetings of Importance to the Membership?"

Closing the Meeting

8:30 PM: (Approximately) *"Having covered all required issues of Chapter #__, is there a motion on the floor to adjourn the Business Portion of the meeting?"*

"A Motion has been made and seconded; All in favor say AYE, Oppose?"

"Meeting Adjourned"

"There will be a _____ minute break before moving on to the next portion of our Chapter's program."

Again, this is a formal outline and can be done in 15 minutes easily, if the business meeting hasn't been postponed until the following month. With this outline, your Chapter is professional, organized and that dreaded business portion part is done quickly.

Break and Socializing

The break allows for everyone to relax and get ready for the next portion of the program. The length of the break is determined by the topic for the evening. If training and/or a workshop is planned there will be a break after that session so the initial break may be shortened. Many times the topic event starts before 8:30 PM.

Topic or Event for the Evening

This is the fun portion of the meeting where many times everyone in the Chapter gets involved. Prior to the evening events and on an annual basis, determine the topic for each meeting. Topic selection is best right after the KIDabra Conference, and the schedule should be from September to June.

Whatever topic you have chosen, allow time for members to try out the new routine, or learn from each other. For instance if Rope Magic is the topic, have members teach others how to perform the Classic Cut-and-Restored rope. One night, Chapter #1 made simple egg bags, and everyone went home with an egg bag. Another time, everyone went home with the ability to do a simple marble-matrix routine. It doesn't matter what the effect is someone will not know how to do it and it is the Chapter's job to see others learn something. It's like getting special present every month.

Marketing and/or Demonstration

Before the meeting closes, if a member is a dealer and has new product, allow them to demonstrate or at least tell you about it. Also, try to present a marketing tip. It could be business cards, flyers, brochures, posters, or any of the many marketing methods available to children entertainers

Plan for Success...

- Video/DVD or Book Review: *"Get members involved in reviews"*
- Business Meeting: *"Short and Sweet"*
- Lecture/Demonstration on Topic: *"Unlimited choices... Have a Back-up Plan"*
- Marketing Tips: *"An easy to apply marketing tip"*
- Take Home Effect: *"Something simple to make or buy at a dollar store"*
- Magic Tricks for This Event: *"Have at least one complete routine from someone"*
- Resources: *"Supply some resources for further research"*
- Topic Related Internet Links: *"Use Internet links if they have something of value"*

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Part III: KIDabra Meeting Ideas and Activities

The Success of Chapter is dependent on making the meeting interesting and desirable for members to want to attend. Maintaining interesting meetings is essential to a Chapter's success.

Chapter activities success is dependent on a dynamic leader of the meeting night activity, one who plans a yearly meeting schedule and follows up on each activity is pushing the organization in a successful direction.

Chapters should try new activities or new twists to the existing activity. An excellent idea is to add two or three new meeting ideas each year so there is freshness to the Chapter's programs. If an activity works well, then it can be repeated each year until a visual decline in its usefulness.

Below are suggestive activities with which a Chapter can get involved in hopes that they will bring new or sustained interest to the magic portion of the Chapter meeting. Such a list of ideas will never be complete as innovative Chapters will always find new thoughts, ideas, and approaches that will make their meetings highly successful and which should be added to the list presented here.

Leadership

Looking inward to find leadership and to utilize the magical talent within the Chapter is important. When members are challenged to produce a special program or give a mini lecture or workshop they learn much themselves. They may provide insights not previously considered. Involvement is extremely important. It is something other organizations seem to be lacking. Also, the enthusiasm and excitement of the group leader as well as the participants is equally important. The group leader can delegate this function to another member which can motivate others to have a great time, laugh, get involved, and keep the meeting on schedule.

Sometimes only the basic idea of the meeting theme or activity is suggested since the approach is obvious. In other cases detail is provided and suggestions are made about specific activities to be tried. The Chapter's activity leaders always should use their imagination to create a meeting that is interesting and tailored to their Chapter member's needs and interests.

The core ideas expressed may be sufficient for a whole evening's meeting. Sometimes it is logical to combine several ideas and activities to fill out the meeting. Often items are suitable for a mini lecture, a mini-teach-in session, a discussion group and/or a member performance night. Adapt and mix events to meet the member's needs. If your Chapter

has an interesting activity that should be included in the next update of these suggested activities report send it to the KIDabra International main office.

For now, you may want to scan over these meeting events, and refer back to them when you plan the annual event with key members of your club. When you become a Chapter then the Executive Board would make these decisions. Always try to receive input from your membership.

Animal Magic (Magic Performances)

Mini-lecture and/or discussion on use and/or performance with animals in children and family magic. Evening could include:

- Performance by magicians utilizing animals
- Animal related themes or props
- Techniques with doves and rabbits in magical production
- Care and humane treatment of animals used in magic
- Magic with fake animals (Rocky, Skunk, Rabbit in the Hat, etc.)

Assistant Interviews (Educational)

Discussion and/or lecture on dealing with

- Selecting volunteers from the audience
- Treating assistants on stage
- Examples of interviews with the volunteer and the comedy bits that go with it such as varies wands, and props used with kids.

Audience Participation Effects (Educational, Magic Performance, Demonstration)

Discussion and/or lecture on dealing with effect that require audience participation. This is abroad topic because most of what children entertainers do require audience participation. The purpose of this meeting is to demonstrate the importance of audience participation and how to do it.

- Coloring Book and a variety of similar effects such as Stamp Album, What's My Job, etc.
- Hippy Hop Rabbits
- Run Rabbit Run type effects (Bakery Bear, Firehouse Frenzy, Run Dino Run, etc.)
- And so many others...

Bag Magic (Magic Performances)

Discussion of and/or member performance with bags Bags include all types:

- Egg bag
- Change Bag,
- Gag Bags
- Dream Bag

- Paper Bags,
- Blendo Bag, etc.

Balloon Sculptors Mini-lecture and/or discussion on use and/or performance with balloons in children and family magic. Evening could include:

- Animals
- Hats
- Balloon Jokes
- Multi-Balloon Sculptors
- Beginners, Experienced, and Advanced, groups
- Balloon Contests

Black Art (Concepts)

Lecture, discussion and/or performance of black art magic:

- Examples of triple velvet, etc.
- Performance examples of Black Art

Business Card Exchange (Marketing)

Members conduct a business card exchange or swap with also:

- Discussion on what makes a good business card
- Prizes given to top three business cards chosen by members
- Performance of magical effects using one's business card

Business of Magic (Marketing)

Members and/or outside experts discuss aspects of managing a magic business. Examples of topics are shown:

- Promotion
- Publicity
- Fees
- Expenses
- Contracts
- Self booking vs. Agents
- Record keeping
- Taxes
- Liability Insurance

Candles, Canes, and Wands (Magic & Comedy)

Lecture or performance night with effects keyed to entertaining children with:

- Candles
- Canes
- Variety of Comedy Wands

Card Magic (Magic)

Mini-lecture, discussion or performance of card magic with: Performance or teaching of a favorite routine or trick Basic card sleights which would be valid for children shows Effects with cards and other props (Pro Viper, Howzat, etc.)

- Fanning or palming
- Business card magic
- Special cards or packet card tricks good for kids

Charity Show (Fundraiser, Cross-Promotion)

Magicians provide an evening's entertainment with a fundraiser for the patients, children and other appropriate groups. Often a meeting room is available for Chapter business session at facility or meeting. A fundraiser can be held for that organization in exchange for a year's free rent of that facility. Perform for:

- Local Hospital,
- Children's Home,
- Schools
- etc.

Children's Magic (Educational, Self Improvement, Magic Show)

- Difference between entertaining children, families, and adults only magic.
- Classics of Children Magic: Hippy Hop Rabbits, Egg Bag, Miser's Dream, Change Bag etc.
- Dealing with difficult audiences and kids.
- Performing for Handicapped Children, such as Muscular Dystrophy, Blind Children, Children with ADDS, etc.
- Invite a local school classroom to a local meeting and have members, willing to perform, give a 1/2 hour show followed by a discussion of the show by the performers.

Close Up Cavalcade Show (Magic Show)

A major close up event where children are invited. Magicians of all skill levels have chance to perform.

- In a large room three to five magicians rotate from one table to another and perform a five to ten minute children close up routines.
- In a small room and with few children, magicians will perform their magic at one table.

Clowns (Comedy)

Many Children love clowns and there are numerous skits used in clowning that can be adapted to magical routines.

- Collection

- Discussion by a collector of books and magazines, posters or magical effects
- Getting started in collecting
- Buying collectibles (sources and other tips)
- Maintaining, inventorying and documenting a collection Performance of old and rarely seen magic by one or more members who have collected magic

Coloring Book Night (Educational and Entertaining)

This popular effect and its variation of similar effect such as Stamp Album, What's my Job, etc. have a variety of ways to perform this effect.

- Demonstrate the variety of effects
- Discuss the comedy and importance as well as age group of this effect
- Discuss the "I've seen it before" comments and dealing with them in a comical way.
- Explain why repeats of common effect are good for children
- Discuss different effects for different age groups.
- Have similar one effects topic nights such as 20th Century Silks, Milk Pitcher, silks, etc. night

Contests (Magic Show)

Contests provide focus for magicians to improve. However, they are also entertaining for guests and friends of the Chapter. Types of contests include:

- Close up contest
- Stand up contest
- Stage contest
- Comedy Magic
- Educational Theme Magic
- Best non-magic routine involves other fields of children entertainment
- Team magic wherein teams of magicians (either randomly selected or pre-developed) compete. Winners declared by the audience vote
- Best magic done with a specific chosen prop for entertaining children, for example, prop effects, cards, coins, ropes, puppets, balloons, juggling, ventriloquism, etc. Winners could be chosen by judges or audience vote
- Best magic effect done with a self constructed prop Best "original" magic effect
- People's choice "magician of the month." At monthly meeting members perform a routine and an outstanding performer for the night is chosen. These winners may then compete in a final contest for magician of the year.

Comedy Magic (Magic Show)

Performance and/or discussion of comedy magic Members perform one of their favorite comedy routines

- Discussion and/or mini lecture on the do's and don'ts in use of comedy in magical performances (and with audience volunteers and assistants)

- Discussion of favorite gags and comedy props used in children shows

Costumes And Wardrobe (Educational & Marketing)

Mini lecture and discussion on dress for magicians and assistants. Discussion can include:

- What is appropriate dress for the magician and assistants? Sources of wardrobe costumes
- Use of "costume props" for children and adult volunteers

Critiques (Educational Feedback)

A critique night of a key event is useful to improve the event or to provide feedback on a magician's performance. Video taping of the event is extremely helpful. Critiques can be held for:

- Chapter's annual stage show or contest performances.
- Specific routines such as miser's dream, thumb tip magic, Hippy Hop Rabbits, Run Rabbit Run Effects, etc. Note, critiques must be done in a way that they are productive in their result and not offensive to those involved. Ways to improve an act.

Cups And Balls (Close-up Magic, Educational)

Performance night utilizing any effect done with cups or balls. This may or may not directly be related to children entertainment, however, keeping up with the classic skills changes the focus of the generally children meetings to a self improvement meeting, which is good for a change in pace.

- Cups and Balls
- Chop Cup

Daycare Preschool Night (Theme Magic, Entertainment)

Chapter members demonstrates latest children effects, props routines related to the younger children and those found at daycare and preschool centers and props.

- Demonstrations of Daycare Show
- Demonstrations on New Effects
- Discussion on Preschool magic.

Dealer's Night (Show improvement, Revisions, Entertainment)

Local dealer(s) demonstrates and sells latest children effects and props.

- Demonstrations of Best sellers
- Demonstrations on New Effects
- Open to a variety of dealers, not just magic dealers.

Deja Vu Magic (Educational)

Three to five magicians repeat same effect utilizing their own routine. Several effects are explored in the evening

- Differences in entertainment value are discussed.
- Helping others improve on their techniques
- Members should take special caution to avoid copying another magician's patter and special innovations.

Die Box Night (Comedy Magic)

Demonstrations and performance of this classic children magic trick:

- Difference in Die Boxes
- Ideas to modernize this effect.
- Discussion of the "Sucker Effect" appropriateness

Educational Theme Night (Magic Show)

Show with an educational theme:

- Drug Awareness Themes
- Stranger Danger
- Safety Themes such as Fire Safety, Public Safety, Think Safety, Police Safety, School Bus Safety, School Safety, Playground Safety, Animal Safety, Car Safety
- Halloween Safety
- Self Awareness
- Manners
- Self-Esteem
- Anti-Bullying
- Nutrition
- Dental Hygiene
- Motivational
- Fantastic Friends
- Conflict Resolution
- Diversity
- Morality
- Educational Basics: such as The Magic of Reading, The Magic of History, The Magic of Geography, The Magic of Science
- Magic around the world
- Patriotic
- Environmental Awareness

Emceeing A Magic Show (Educational)

Tips from Chapter experts and discussion. Review such items as:

- Purpose of master of ceremonies
- Role of master of ceremonies

- Tips for warming up the audience,
- Obtaining volunteers
- Varies Effects which can be used by Emcees
- Educational Material available for Emcees
- Introducing acts
- Closing the show

Escape From The Ordinary (Family Entertainment)

Evening emphasizes lecture, demonstrations or performance of magic with an escape theme:

- Demonstration or performance of handcuff or straight jacket escapes
- Demonstration or performance of wrist or thumb ties
- Performance by Chapter members of any magic effect which has an escape theme
- Lecture or discussion on the great escape artists

Ethics For Magicians (Educational, Self Improvement)

Presentation and discussion of ethics in magic. Possible areas of discussion are:

- What is ethical and non-ethical behavior?
- What if unethical behavior is exhibited by a Chapter member?
- The Chapter 's policy on ethics
- What is considered Public Domain Magic?

Exchange Night (Magic Show, Demonstration, or Lecture)

Have an exchange meeting with another Magic or Variety Arts Club:

- Exchange stage and close up shows with another KIDabra Chapter or a SAM Assembly, or an I.B.M. Ring within driving distance
- Invite local Juggling Club, Puppet Guild or a Clown Alley, etc. to do an exchange entertainment night

Favorite and/or First Magic Trick

A performance night for entire Chapter or one or two different magicians perform each meeting Members perform first trick ever performed and tell history of where and when they learned it Chapter members perform their favorite effect and explain why it is such

Gambling Night Evening emphasizes performance of magic with gambling theme such as:

- Performance of card effects with a gambling theme Non card gambling effects
- Bar bets and other forms of trickery
- Carnival scams
- Illustration of methods of cheating at cards, etc.
- Historical look at riverboat gamblers or performance by a member as one

Helpful Hints (Educational)

Round table discussion or mini lecture on helpful tips and hints that the experienced magicians have found over the years. This may include:

- The magician's tool kit
- Care of and maintaining props and equipment Emergency repairs, etc.
- Marketing Tips (Advertising and Promoting a show)
- Tables, Props, Costumes, etc
- Effects that look big but Pack small and play very well.

History of Magic (Educational, Self-Improvement)

Mini Lecture On The History of Magic. May choose specific topics such as:

- Beginning of Legerdemain
- History of the KIDabra
- Local Chapter historical
- Historical development of a specific type of magic
- Display of local Chapter archives

Holiday and Safety Theme Magic (Magic Show, Educational)

Evening is both social and magical, with themes appropriate to the specific holiday. Note care should be taken in utilizing religious holidays as a Chapter event so as not to exclude certain members. Here are some themes:

- Halloween Magic (séances, ghosts, Houdini remembrance)
- Thanksgiving ("Turkey Magic" Or Magic I should have not bought)
- Winter holiday magic (Christmas, Hanukah Magic, etc.)
- St. Patrick's Day
- Valentine's Day (sweetheart or magic with a love theme)
- April Fools Day
- National Birthday (independence day, loyalty day, flag day or other patriotic event)
- Fire Prevention
- Red Ribbon Week (Drug Awareness)

Illusions/Illusionettes (Educational Magic Show)

Lecture and/or demonstration and performance of illusions for children. May include:

- Chapter members performing their illusions such as Chair suspension, Flying Princess, Sawing in Half, Arrowhead, etc
- Discussions of Danger Effects within Children Shows
- Discussion of the great illusions for Children Shows
- Playing video tape of recent illusionist's TV show
- Review of sources of plans and building tips for illusions

Induction of New Members (Membership development)

Induction of new members should be a significant Chapter event. The evening may include:

- Member induction ceremony
- New members describing their magical interests and background
- Performance of a routine or an effect by the inductees
- Positive reinforcement to new members

Installation of Officers (Membership, Magic Show, Banquet)

This event is special and should be conducted with the dignity befitting the occasion. It may include:

- Banquet with installation ceremony Annual awards program
- Historical displays of Chapter activities and members
- Video or slide presentation of the year's highlights
- Close up show and Stage show (possibly featuring new and past officers)

Impromptu Magic (Table Magic)

Members perform magic with readily available common items:

- Magic with string, paper, coins
- Magic with salt shakers, knives, straws, glasses, napkins, etc.
- Members can be advised of the theme and bring their "common items" to the meeting

Improvisational Meeting (Creativity, Impromptu, Comedy, Entertaining)

- Members improvise from what is available in the meeting room or what they have with them all the time
- Members are given a paper bag of a variety of items and must do something entertaining with them

Jugglers (Educational, Self-Improvement)

Variety entertainers can improve their skills entertaining children in a round table discussion and practice of:

- Basic Juggling
- Juggling with scarves
- Adding comedy to juggling
- Exchange with local juggling club.
- Combine with others non-magic skills such as balloons, and puppetry

Lectures (Educational, Self-Improvement)

Major outside lectures are a great Chapter events and are encouraged. To schedule contact nearby Chapters for their experiences and contacts and /or booking agents or

lecturer's directly; some Chapter's are off the major lecture circuit and/or cannot afford the lecturer's fee. Here are some alternatives:

- Mini lectures by Chapter members
- Exchange lectures with a nearby Chapters
- Use of commercial video tapes, followed by Chapter discussion and/or workshop

Library And Video Basics

Chapter members review and express opinions on:

- Essential or basic books and magazines for a magic library
- Key video tapes to guide the beginner and expert
- Sources of used and new books and videos

Liquid or Chemical Magic (Educational)

Performance or Mini Lecture utilizing liquids or chemistry to create the illusion Magic Accessories:

- Milk Pitcher
- Tips on creating fake milk (Ooom)

Look No See Night

Members bring in there audience participation effect where actions occur and they don't see it but the audience does:

- Run Rabbit Run effects
- Blooming Flower

Magic for Different Audiences

Chapter members lecture, discuss or present magic in which they have expertise. Some examples are:

- Birthday parties
- Comedy clubs
- Restaurant magic
- School shows
- Cruise ship
- Theme park
- Trade show or corporate magic
- Strolling or street magic

Magic Night and Performances By Specific Groups

Special groups organize meeting and perform in the evening's show. Meeting is usually open to guests. Groups could be:

- New and/or past officers New members

- Young members
- Magicians specializing in some form of magic

Magic With a Message

Members who utilize magic as vehicle to deliver a message present portion of their act and discuss their approach to utilizing magic in this manner. Examples are:

- Gospel Magic
- Ecology Magic
- Safety Theme
- Anti drug
- Health Theme
- Trade or Corporate Magic
- Motivational
- School Skills

Magic With a Story

A performance evening which includes:

- Members presenting a magical effect that has a story theme woven into it
- Awards being given for the best original story and/or best presentation

Magical Presentations That Need Help and Improvement

Members perform effects and receive Chapter feedback and suggestions on effects that they wish to improve. Suggestions should be broad and cover:

- Staging
- Patter
- Music
- Ending, etc.
- Working with Music

Magic Performance Night with Specific Props

All members are invited to perform routines with the prop of the evening. Props can be standard, such as coins or cards, but the meeting is more interesting as the props become more unusual. However, they should still be possible for most members. A few brief examples of the latter are:

- Magic done with food, inedible food or food containers.
- Magic with liquids and liquid containers
- Handkerchiefs
- Comedy Wands
- Comedy Props

Magic Performance Night with Specific Type of Magical Effect

Members perform effects that meet evenings planned methodology or description of the magical effect such as:

- Suspension/levitation
- Penetration
- Transposition
- Production
- Vanish
- Prediction
- Restoration
- Transformation

Mental Magic

A lecture and performance night that could include:

- Knowledgeable Chapter member providing lecture or leading a discussion on mental magic
- Performance of mentalism effects by Chapter members

Money Magic

A performance, mini lecture, and/or workshop evening that could include:

- Coins and bills alone
- Miser's Dream
- Money effects with switches or shells
- Money with other props
- Lapping and sleeveing techniques

Music In Magic

Mini lecture and discussion on use of music in the magic act including:

- Sources of music
- How to use music in performance
- Legal requirements
- Music sound systems available for the solo performer

Original Magic

A performance evening that would include:

- Performance of a magical effect or with a prop that a Chapter member has created
- Use of original patter to a standard routine
- Awards could be given for best original material

Paper Magic

Lecture, demonstration or performance evening, perhaps with general or specific approaches to paper magic such as:

- Torn and restored effects
- Paper money
- Origami effects Streamers, and coils
- Paper bags and other props

Performance of Magic from a Specific Source

This performance meeting would include performance and/or discussion of effects that came from sources such as:

- Funny Paper Magazine
- The last KIDabra conference or Chapter Banquet
- The last convention
- The most recent lecturer
- Magic of a specific performer, e.g., Ginn, Samuel Smith, Silly Billy
- From specific books, e.g., Tarbell, Ginn, Samuel Smith, Silly Billy, Fran or Jay Marshal, etc

Performance or Teaching Themes For A Specific Audience

This meeting to include demonstration, panel discussion, mini-lecture or performance of effects for a specific audience such as:

- Magic for specific ages;
- Pre-school & Day care Children
- Elementary school children
- Teenagers Shows
- Shows for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
- Youth groups
- Hospital shows for children or adult patients
- Shows for senior citizens and retirement centers
- Trade Shows attendees
- Magic for bar patrons
- Magic for fraternal organizations

Photo or Video Evening

Special meeting in which:

- Photographer is obtained to take pictures of Chapter membership and also for individual publicity shots
- Video camera is set up to record members performance which is then critiqued by Chapter members
- Playback of video recording of contests or shows with critique by judges or members.

- Playback of a promotional tape and discuss value and qualities of a good promotional tape
- Play and review a recent commercial magic teaching or performance video tape

Puppeteers

An evening of Puppets:

- Axtell Puppets
- Working with CD voice

Reel or Thread Magic

Performance or lecture night where reels or threads are key to the effect

- Mini-Reels
- Large Reels
- Spider Thread
- Stocking Thread

Reviews

Part of the meeting is spent reviewing and discussing recent magical performances. They could include:

- Review and critique of recent Chapter or other stage show
- Review and critique of recent convention (possibly with performance of an effect learned or purchased by members)
- Book review of recent purchase by a member (possible performance of effects from it)
- Video tape reviews of commercial magic tapes (possible showing of specific sections of the tape)
- Review and discussion of recent TV magic presentations

Rope And String Magic

Mini-lecture, demonstration and/or member performance on various effects and sleights utilizing ropes or strings. Some possibilities are:

- Cut and restored rope
- Rope or string effects without cutting
- Wrist and thumb ties
- String effects
- Knots, real and fake

Round Table Discussion (Educational)

Round table discussion on where to buy certain special needs, such as:

- Tables,
- Fanning Powder,

- Magician's Wax,
- Special Cards,
- Costumes, etc.

School Programs (Educational, Lecture, Diversifying Skills)

Discussion and lecture on how to run an after school program (Latch-Key Kids):

- After School Magic Course Club
- After School Juggling Course Club
- After School Circus Act Course Club
- After School Puppetry Course Club
- After School Balloon Sculpture Course Club

Selling and Buying Magic Items

Magic auctions are a favorite event at many organizations. Here is how some Chapters can operate:

- Magic auction: Items sold by Chapter auctioneer. Chapter may wish to charge sellers percent (often 10%) of sales price and bidders a registration fee. Chapter administers funds
- "Flea market" or "garage sale of magic,": Tables are set up for each seller who prices his own items for sale and negotiates the sales. Chapter may charge sellers for table space.
- Silent magic auction,: Items for sale are placed on tables (with minimum sale price listed, if there is one) potential buyers add their bid to the bottom of a bidding sheet. At the end of specified time, highest bidder pays for and receives item. Chapter administers funds and may charge sellers percent of sale and buyers a registration fee.
- Gather a bunch of auction items from members who can't attend and take them to the Famous Annual KIDabra Convention Auction.

Silk Magic

Lecture, demonstration or performance of silk effects including:

- Production and color changing effects
- Silks with bags and other props
- Knots
- Care of silks, etc.

Sponge Magic:

- Lecture, demonstration and/or performance Sponge Balls
- Sponge Rabbits
- Other Sponge Items

Stage Craft and Theatrical Techniques

A lecture or mini lecture and discussion meeting with:

- Chapter stage performer or someone from a local theater group presents information on make up, lighting, staging of acts, etc.
- Chapter members review portable sound systems, lighting systems, portable backdrops, etc.

Teaching and Mentoring

Extending the magical skill and knowledge of Chapter members is one of the key activities of the Chapter. Three methods below describe approaches to do this for new members or in some cases for all Chapter magicians:

- **Beginner's Corner:** Before or after each meeting newcomers to magic and the Chapter choose a theme and a senior member helps them with sleights, presentation, etc. Beginners are expected to read about and actively participate in development of skills.
- **Mentoring:** Members with a special interest in a type of magic or magical effect meet before or after meetings as either a self support group or assisted by a knowledgeable member to advance their skills in the chosen area
- **"Teach In"** The Chapter is broken up into small groups and two to four members teach one or two effects to each group. It is a workshop approach and the members should be able to do the effect at the conclusion of each instructor's presentation.

Techniques

A discussion or mini lecture on how to create or where to find specific magic materials.

For example:

- Roughing Fluid,
- Fanning Powder,
- Gimmicked Cards
- Card Splitting
- Oom

Tips And Tubes

Lecture, discussion or performance night on or with the use of:

- Thumb tips
- Dye Tubes
- Change Bags
- Other Tubes type effects

Turn it Around Effects

Members perform a variety of effect where the children, say "turn it around":

- Hippy Hop Rabbits
- Fraidiy Cat Rabbit
- Monkey Bar
- Fish Bar

Unusual Magic Performance Night Themes

A performance night for the Chapter that could include:

- Performance of "Tricks I wish I never purchased" or "Turkey Magic"
- Performance of "The first trick I ever learned"
- "Take A Chance Night": Variety of props are each placed in a bag; members draw for a bag and are expected to perform the effect with the prop after an appropriate time of preparation

Variety Arts Night

Demonstrations, lectures or workshops by allied variety artists. All for the purpose of entertaining children. Includes:

- Balloons
- Ventriloquist
- Puppets
- Drawing Boards
- Jugglers
- Clowns, etc.

Ventriloquists

The art of ventriloquism:

- Working with Dummies
- Developing Characters
- Throwing one's Voice.
- Different kinds of vent figures

Volunteers

Mini lecture and discussion on utilizing adult and children "volunteers" in a magical performance. Includes:

- Selecting and interaction with volunteers
- Handling problem volunteers and unusual situations
- Costumes and props for volunteers (particularly children)
- Ways of thanking volunteers

Workshops

The meeting is focused on learning a new routine or magic effect.:

- Rope Magic

- Miser's Dream moves and Routine
- Sponge Rabbits or Sponge Balls
- Coin magic
- Paper magic
- Close-up routine
- Paddle Moves magic
- Magician's Choice
- This list is unlimited based on the topics