

KIN QUILL

"MY FIRST KIN YEAR"

by

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Zone A

744 words

My first year as a Kin member has been a great thing for me. I am glad I joined and became a part of the Kin family. I have always known about the Kin Club of Florenceville through my former husband and still member, Murray Davidson. I never thought of joining because I had two small children and my focus was on them. Now that they are grown, I decided to attend a few meetings, with the encouragement of Murray, to see if this was something that I wanted to do.

With smiles and handshakes I was welcomed into the club as a perspective member. I was not nervous because most of the people I already knew from my community. I sat and listen to the meeting and learnt about some of the things that the club does for our community and I thought to myself what a wonderful world. Just kidding, but this is a something I want to do.

The whole thing is a learning experience. You feel proud to be helping your community and enjoying club activities. I attended a Club Education Seminar in Nashwaaksis in August. I really had no clue about some of the things that they were discussing but I listened, asked questions and learned. The activities were fun and built on leadership, friendship and learning.

Then the CF Bingo/ Sleepover. That was an experience that I will never forget. Meeting new people and spending the night with them, you learn a lot and see a lot. (what happens at sleepovers, stays at sleepovers) It was a sleepless night with the loose rain gutters banging and sleeping at the wrong end of the air mattress. Yes there is a wrong end. It feels like your sleeping tilted. The rummoli game that we played was a blast. Claudeen and Paulette made an awesome cheating team, but didn't even notice when someone else was cheating. It was all in good fun. Paulette will be greatly missed by everyone. Years of friendship is the biggest thing I have learned and taken away from each experience. Then the Zone Midterm Meeting held at our Kin Center in February, well I am getting some of the things now. The night before with the get together from other clubs was a blast.

I have volunteered for the biker's bash and that was an excellent time. They raise and do a lot for the community and the children. Combined we are an awesome force and the event is a good time. Sliding party was awesome and a great way to support our community. Hot chocolate, Marshmallows and hot dogs combined with parents and kids laughter is a great way to do National day of kindness. We even volunteered in my hometown of Nackawic and did cotton candy and curly fries. The biggest thing was the Christmas Miracle. There is a lot of work that goes into getting ready. Until you're doing it, you don't realize how much organization, man/woman power go into the event and I am proud to have been a part of that and to be a part of it in the future. I have also been the second caller for Kin bingo and that has been fun. Now we are four strong in the calling department.

Now with it being the end of my first year. I have experienced a great amount of learning, volunteering and friendship and support. The main thing I have come away with in the first year is the friendship. I have watched members who have been in the club for many many years form a friendship bond like no other. They have seen their family's grow together, watched each other grow old together, shared hardships, accomplishments and a great friendship. This I seen at my first Spring Zone with the concern and help given to a long time member and friend. I was honored to have gotten to spend her last Spring Zone with Paulette and know the meaning of the Kin Family and Friendship.

So with the end of this year I decided to run for Secretary of the upcoming year and I am proud to say that in the coming year I will be on the Club Executive as secretary for the Kin Club of Florenceville. My first year has been great and to that I owe it to an awesome club and some amazing people who I am proud to call my Kin family.