The Alabama District’s Mid-winter Conference is scheduled Feb. 24-25, 2017, at the Marriott Legends Hotel and Conference Center in Prattville.

Governor Keith Graham plans to focus on the I-Plan during the conference. Kiwanis International Trustee John DeVilbiss of West Alexandria, Ohio, will be a special guest.

District Secretary Pat Manasco said the theme for the Friday night awards dinner is “Take a Quick Step to Paris,” and she encourages everyone to wear... (See PRATTVILLE, Page 14)

Governor’s first visit

Keith Graham made his first official Kiwanis Governor’s Visit on Jan. 16 in Division 1. Cathey Carney, president of the Huntsville Golden K Club, gave him copies of its longtime fundraiser, the Old Huntsville historical magazine, and a donation to Reading Is Fundamental. (See Pages 3-4.)

It’s pancake season

Syrupy fundraisers popular in Alabama

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Trivia question: How many gallons of syrup does it take for all Alabama children to feel “happy, healthy, safe and loved?”

Several members of each Kiwanis club that sponsors an annual pancake day should know the answer to that question. Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson is emphasizing the outcome of Kiwanis service and the impact on children around the world during her 2016-17 term.

Many of the largest and oldest clubs in the Alabama District have been flipping pancakes for service for decades — at least since they learned that a little flour could turn into big proceeds to help fund parks, playgrounds, ball fields and much more in their communities.

Many clubs schedule their pancake events in the winter, when people are hungry to get out and socialize a bit. A few wait until fall to flip their pancakes. The menus, venues, helpers, hours and ticket prices also vary, but... (See PANCAKES, Page 5)
What impact are you making?

Each and every one of us makes an impact somewhere, somehow, some way each and every day. The question is what kind of impact are you making?

The call this year from Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson is to “Energize the dream that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved.”

This charge is embodied in the bold, multi-colored handprint design you have likely seen. That handprint is one of her grandchildren, and it is a reminder that we are leaving our handprints, especially in the lives of children. We may not make that connection as we live our lives daily, but we are making an impact with everything we do.

As Kiwanians, we choose to join together each week in our communities with the mission of improving the lives of children. Our common purpose allows us greater opportunity to make that positive impact that can help each child in our world feel happier, healthier, safer and loved.

The primary goal of the Impact component of the I-Plan is to identify and promote the signature service projects of our clubs and district. I have never met a Kiwanian who could not tell me what their club does to make their community and children’s lives better.

The challenge is to make this known not just among us as Kiwanians but in our communities. We as Kiwanians need to brag about what we do, and brag boldly. So long as our bragging is to inspire more of our friends, neighbors and colleagues to join our great call and make a greater impact on the children of our world, our bragging is not boasting or self-serving.

May I ask, how is your club making an Impact? How are you making an Impact?

Many types of service

So far this year I have seen and heard many ways in which Alabama Kiwanis is making an impact. You are taking children shopping at back-to-school time to make sure they have clothes and supplies. I heard a story about a child struggling in school; the need for a pair of shoes that fit that child’s feet was the difference between a distracted child and a more focused student. Sometimes what may seem small and insignificant can have the greatest influence.

By way of many pancake breakfasts (and suppers), golf tournaments and other events, we are gathering the resources to invest in the many

Using the handprint of her grandchild, Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson developed this logo as a reminder that Kiwanians are leaving handprints on children’s lives.

K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Clubs, Circle K and Aktion clubs.

Our consistent commitment to our Service Leadership Programs is never an option in the Great Alabama District. I believe the continued growth and leadership in these members of the K-Family not only gives us much to brag about but helps us to clearly see the impact that we are making. As an added benefit, we get to experience and join in the impact that they are making in their schools and communities.

Reading to 24,000 a year

Beyond our individual clubs, we as a district (through our Alabama Kiwanis Foundation) make a lasting impact in the lives of approximately 24,000 children each year with Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental. We get the opportunity to place in the hands of a 4-year-old a book three different times during the year.

I cannot say that I read to these children at every scheduled reading of our club, but I can say that my goal is to make at least one reading every year. I challenge each Alabama Kiwanian to read at least once each year.

Each time that you sit and read to a child or group of children, you are telling them that they matter, and hopefully you are providing them with a time in which they truly feel happy, safe and loved.

Alabama Kiwanis is vibrant and strong. Boldly proclaim what your local club is doing, and continue making an impact. I look forward to seeing you at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 24-25!
Alabama District Governor Keith Graham traveled from his Mobile home to Huntsville to talk about the Kiwanis I-Plan and other issues during his first official visit Jan. 16.

“This year we are implementing, quarter by quarter, the four components of the I-Plan,” he told Division 1 Kiwanians after a steak and shrimp dinner hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville.

Bringing in members

“It’s not easy, but I won’t ask you to do anything I won’t do,” he said. He has committed to bring in two new members this year, and if everyone did that, it would increase membership dramatically and allow for more service.

Presidents of the six clubs in Division 1 gave reports detailing service and fundraisers, but almost all reported losing many members in the past year. “A lot of our members were NASA engineers and the nicest, smartest, most wonderful people, but they all are older, and we’ve been losing too many,” said Debra McKay, president of the South Huntsville club.

Graham, an accountant, shared their concern, mentioning words attributed to Ben Franklin: “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

He acknowledged that while Kiwanis is not a young group, it sponsors 8,000 Key Club members in Alabama who will be prospects for membership in Kiwanis in years to come, as well as Circle K members who need to be contacted as they move beyond college.

Graham also talked about Kiwanis International’s new marketing campaign, designed to make sure people know what Kiwanis is and does with innovative materials such as “Kids Need Kiwanis” ads, billboards and more.

“We’ve got to keep our image strong,” he said.

Graham showed his tie and pin featuring children’s handprints, a gift from 2016-17 Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson, whose theme is “Energize the Dream” to make sure every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved. He said the handprints belong to one of her grandchildren. “She really loves going to her Kiwanis K-Kids meeting every week, and this year one of her grandchildren is a member.”

Strengthening RIF

For Graham, Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental is a favorite program, and he described his plan to strengthen the RIF program in Alabama financially by asking for $1,000 “Harvey Watson Challenge” donations for the new RIF Future Fund this year and then add more over time to grow it to a healthy endowment.

“RIF has faced many challenges recently, and I wanted to find a way to help it and build for the future,” Graham said. He accepted several donations for RIF from clubs attending.

The Kiwanis I-Plan was developed to get the service organization’s second century off to a good start. These four foundations of the I-Plan will help Kiwanis flourish for the future: Inspiration, the membership and engagement segment; Impact, a focus on meaningful service; Image, including ideas for branding and marketing the organization; and Investment, which covers financial viability. Governor Keith Graham is discussing these topics during his talks and in his Kourier columns, and the I-Plan also will be the focus of two sessions Feb. 25 at the Mid-winter Conference: 9:30 to 10:30 and 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.
Deadline for the spring edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is April 20, 2017

Governor visits Huntsville

Division 1 Kiwanians and guests enjoyed a steak and shrimp dinner and socializing Jan. 16 during the official visit of Kiwanis Governor Keith Graham and his wife, Dee Dee. The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville hosted the evening event at its regular meeting site, the Eagles’ Lodge. In the third row, left photo, Graham addresses the group; in the right photo are Lt. Gov. Doc Overholt, seated, and Kiwanis Club of Huntsville President Mike Roddy, speaking.
Buy 2017 “See the Need to Read to a Child” calendars from Jean Dean RIF

Pancakes
(From Page 1)

it’s always debatable who enjoys these events more — the Kiwanians or the crowds who line up to get in.

Here are a few of the pancake events announced for this winter:

Feb. 18, Gadsden

Pancakes will be the featured item of the day when the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden serves ’em up hot on Feb. 18 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Gadsden Convention Hall.

Kiwanis Pancake Day is called Gadsden’s largest social event, and it continues to grow every year. Takeout plates also are available at the venue, located at 344 South First Street.

The Kiwanis Club has been serving Gadsden and Etowah County since July of 1919. Funds raised on the third Saturday in February every year go to support various community projects.

March 3-4, Florence

The Florence Kiwanis Club’s two-day event on Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, will be its 66th annual Pancake Day.

Kiwanians will serve pancakes and sausage from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The location is the Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum at 702 Veterans Drive, Florence.

Nearly doubling the number of hours allows the club to make more money to use toward a big variety of service and charities. This year, the goal is to raise $65,000.

Advance tickets are $7 (or $6 each for group sales of 10 or more tickets). Tickets at the door are $8 each, with children under 12 admitted for $5 at the door.

Tickets are available from any Florence Kiwanis member and at the door. For more information, check www.florencekiwanis.com.

March 4, Huntsville

The 40th Pancake Day for the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville is scheduled for March 4 at the Huntsville High School cafeteria.

Hours will be 6 a.m. to noon. Tickets are $6 in advance or $7 at the door.

March 4, Anniston

March 4 is the date for the Kiwanis Club of Anniston’s Pancake Day this year. Hours are 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Anniston City Meeting Center.

This club was chartered in 1920 and then started the pancake day in 1985 as its primary fundraiser to help raise funds for service projects such as back-to-school shopping, scholarships.

Restaurants and Kiwanis clubs can join forces

If your Kiwanis club doesn’t sponsor a pancake fundraiser, you can consider starting one or partnering with an established business.

While many clubs have long-running pancake days held at venues such as school cafeterias and civic centers, you might talk with restaurants like McDonald’s and Applebee’s to see if they can help out.

For members of smaller clubs and in areas where there is no pancake day tradition, think about joining the International House of Pancakes and Children’s Miracle Network in their efforts.

Kids need Kiwanis and so does IHOP, according to Kiwanis International. March 7 is National Pancake Day, when IHOP restaurants give patrons a free short stack of pancakes.

Kiwanians can help by signing up for two-hour shifts at IHOP restaurants to help explain the need to support Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and ask guests for donations. The money raised goes to those hospitals or other children’s charities.

Visit kiwanis.org to find videos and suggestions on how Kiwanians can volunteer to serve free pancakes to help make sure children get the medical care they need at Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson has recorded videos on what you can say to increase donations for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals while volunteering at IHOP on National Pancake Day, March 7.
Pancakes
(From Page 5)

tutoring and adopt-a-school programs, and Reading Is Fundamental.

Members raised more than $50,000 at last year’s event. They sell company banners and place mat advertising, as well as tickets.

The Kiwanis Club of Anniston’s pancake event is held the same day as a 5K race, with race sponsors promising a pancake ticket and T-shirt to the first 125 runners to register. After the 8 a.m. race, they can “enjoy a great meal of mouth-watering pancakes, thus supporting another great cause,” according to sponsors. Runners can find out more about the Parker Pancake Run for Missions from Parker Memorial Baptist Church of Anniston.

Feb. 25, Decatur

The Kiwanis Club of Decatur will hold its 51st Pancake Day Feb. 25 in the Decatur High School cafeteria.

This year the ending time is slightly earlier, with the event scheduled from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are $5 in advance and $7 at the door.

In conjunction with Pancake Day, the Decatur club issued a Reading Challenge. Second- and third-graders in Decatur are encouraged to meet their reading goals so they can receive one free paperback book available on Pancake Day plus free admission to eat.

March 4, Huntsville

The 40th Pancake Day for the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville is scheduled for March 4 at the Huntsville High School cafeteria.

Hours will be 6 a.m. to noon. Tickets are $6 in advance or $7 at the door.

March 18, Huntsville West

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast on March 18.

Hours will be 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T. Jones Drive, Huntsville.

This fundraiser is known for being a “sit down and be served” type event that helps fund club projects throughout the year.

Some Kiwanis clubs forming pancake alliances with schools and other groups

Partnering with other organizations is often a popular way to pull off a big event, and that’s what is happening in Helena.

The Kiwanis Club of Helena and the Helena Elementary School PTO will again team up to host the 13th annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Feb. 18.

They might have doubled their publicity, too, getting a local magazine cover (see photo) that promises “Pancakes cooked with love!”

The event will be held from 7 a.m. until noon in the Helena Elementary School cafeteria at 187 3rd St.

Along with pancakes, the all-you-can-eat breakfast will include a choice of bacon or sausage plus coffee and other drinks for $5 per person.

Funds raised will go to help Boy Scout Troop 2, the Helena Elementary School PTO and high school Key Clubs sponsored by local Kiwanians.

Tickets to the breakfast can be purchased at the door or in advance from members of the Kiwanis Club of Helena, members of Helena Elementary PTO and at the school office. Checks should be made payable to the Kiwanis Club of Helena.

For more information, call Helena Kiwanis Past President Luther Jarmon Jr. at 960-6529.

Kiwanis Children’s Fund is new name for Kiwanis International Foundation
Oui, Paris!

International Convention planned July 13-16 in City of Light

Say yes to Paris and begin planning your trip to the 2017 Kiwanis International Convention scheduled for the Palais des Congrès de Paris (Paris Convention Center) July 13-16.

Registration and hotel information and links to much more are now available online at kiwanis.org/convention. Attendees will meet people from all over the world and share ideas while looking around the exhibit hall, participating in educational workshops, opening and closing sessions, a business session, special luncheons and receptions, and Kiwanis achievement recognitions.

European Federation’s anniversary

This will be a shared convention. While this will be the 102nd convention for Kiwanis International, many Kiwanians from Europe will attend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European Federation of Kiwanis.

The opening and closing sessions will be shared, and everyone has the option of signing up for tickets to a gala dinner July 14 hosted by the European Federation with entertainment by a Beatles tribute group.

The convention registration fee is $330 until April 14 and then rises to $385 until May 15. After that, you can register only at the convention site for $440. Be sure to also complete separate paperwork (“Certificate of election of delegates and alternates”) if you are to be a voting delegate from your club.

Kiwanis officials have announced that because of increased safety measures, members must be registered to get into convention venues.

Two hotels have been designated as Kiwanis convention hotels, with negotiated rates that include breakfast, tax and free wifi.

Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco says the Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile (EUR 190 for a single, plus EUR 20 for an extra person), is attached to the convention center and has been partly renovated. Le Meridien Etoile is across the street from the convention center and completely renovated; with the same items included, the rate is EUR 199, plus EUR 20 for an extra person.

No shuttle buses will run because both hotels are near the convention center.

The Palais des Congrès is conveniently located in the centre of Paris, with about 80 cafes and shops close by. Depending on where you exit the convention center, it’s about a 10-minute walk to the Champs-Elysées, seven minutes to the Arc du Triumph and one minute to the Port Maillot Metro Station.

Seeing the sights

Between convention events, you may book Kiwanis or other tours around Paris to sights such as the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, boat rides on the Seine River, and Palace of Versailles. Also, special events may be scheduled July 14 to mark Bastille Day.

Also available are pre- and post-convention Kiwanis coach tours to Provence, with colorful sights painted by the Impressionists, and Normandy, with its beaches, cemeteries and war memorials.
Key Leader: an opportunity to change lives April 21-23

By Jamie Brabston
Alabama District Key Leader chair

Registration for Key Leader 2017 is now open! We need your help identifying those “emerging leaders” in your community so they won’t miss this opportunity.

Key Leader is the most exciting Service Leadership opportunity of the year. You don’t believe me? Just ask past participants — Key Club Governor William Sims and Key Club lieutenant governors including Jen Spell, Samantha Maynard, Brody Sutherland, Laura Crandall and Julia Keller.

There are Key Leader graduates all around our Great District who have described their Key Leader experience as “awesome” and “life-changing!” It is our mission to provide this opportunity to as many of our youth as possible, and we need Kiwanians to help us recruit the students in your divisions, schools and communities.

60 spots available

The Alabama District has committed to filling all 60 spots available for this year’s Key Leader, scheduled for April 21-23. Emerging leaders in your area definitely must attend this exciting, fun and educational weekend at beautiful Camp ASCCA.

See online registration open now at www.key-leader.org.

Key Leader 2017 details

When? April 21-23, 2017
Where? Camp ASCCA in Jackson’s Gap, Alabama
Who? Open to ALL eighth-through 12th-graders
How much? $250 per student ($225 for Key Club members), including two nights’ lodging, all meals and snacks, program materials, a cool T-shirt and fun!
What? An amazing weekend that provides the opportunity to explore new ideas, make friends and develop /improve leadership skills.

Both outdoor and indoor activities are part of a Key Leader weekend, and they all have the same goal. They are designed to teach teens to work in groups and develop their leadership skills. Identify students with leadership potential and help them sign up and attend the April 21-23 session in Jackson’s Gap.

Key Leader is open to all students who are currently in the eighth through 12th grade, whether or not they are already serving in Key Club or Builders Club.

Key Leader has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to foster interest if you are trying to start a Key Club at your local high school, or increase membership in an existing club.

There is no limit on the number of students who may attend from a single school or group. Ideally, we will have representation from all over Alabama!

Some scholarships may be available, but they will go quickly. Assistance with transportation may also be available.

Adults needed, too

Adult volunteers from the Alabama District will coordinate logistics and supervise the students. If you are interested in volunteering as a chaperone, please let me know as soon as possible.

We had an amazing group of Kiwanians volunteer their time for last year’s Key Leader weekend, including Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Treasurer Mike Winstead, who was a chaperone, along with his wife, Carol.

“Key Leader Weekend was super,” Winstead said. “This is one of the best youth programs that I have witnessed, and I have seen a few. I want to encourage others to consider being a chaperone next year…. We need to

(See KEY LEADER, Page 9)
Alabama’s Circle K organizes clubs, completes nearly 3,000 hours’ service

By Stephanie Fox
Circle K Governor, 2016-17

This has been an exciting year for Circle K! As of Jan. 20, we had 354 dues-paid members spanning 12 clubs.

We have chartered new chapters at the University of Alabama at Huntsville and Enterprise State Community College. Hopefully by the end of this Circle K year, we will have also chartered at Miles College, Auburn University in Montgomery, and Faulkner State Community College.

We have completed close to 3,000 service hours, many of which involved unusual projects.

9/11 memorial
My home club at the University of Alabama designed a memorial to honor the victims of the 9/11 tragedy. The Circle K clubs at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of North Alabama, Jacksonville State University, Gadsden State Community College and the University of Alabama joined together in Montgomery on Oct. 22, Kiwanis One Day, to serve breakfast and lunch at the local Salvation Army.

On Jan. 29, the annual Circle K Luminaries fundraiser for Reading Is Fundamental was held at the University of Alabama.

Jacksonville State University Circle K plans to hold its annual volleyball tournament benefiting RIF on March 14.

We have also had excellent turnout for our large-scale service projects and conferences. Eighty Circle K members came out to help label books for Reading Is Fundamental at this year’s Tri-K Service Day Oct. 8. Almost 100 Circle K members attended this year’s Alabama Leadership Academy in Gulf Shores Nov. 18-20.

Our next conference will be the 59th Annual District Convention planned for Birmingham Feb. 24-26. I’m hoping to see many members of this district in Birmingham to celebrate our accomplishments this year.

Support from Kiwanis
I have had an amazing time serving as District Governor this year and am looking forward to the last few months of my term. I am also very grateful for all of the support that Kiwanians have given both Circle K and myself this year.

While I am unable to attend the Alabama Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference due to our District Convention that same weekend, I hope to see everyone soon. Thank y’all for everything y’all do!

Key Leader
(From Page 8)

support this with our money and our attendance. I would recommend the program to every Kiwanis lieutenant governor, also. I am looking forward to this year’s program.”

Along with Winstead, several of last year’s adult chaperones have committed to returning this year. The weekend is an awesome and rewarding experience for not only our youth, but also the adults!

Note that all registration fees for adult chaperones are paid by Kiwanis International, but adults must register at least four weeks prior to the event (by March 24) to ensure timely completion of the necessary background checks.

Past Key Leader participants have described the weekend this way:
“I really believe in the weekend’s power.”
“Developing new friendships, showing strength through obstacles, teamwork, encouraging others, the high energy from everyone.”
“I learned a lot about leadership and what I can do to make a difference.”
“It was fun and inclusive.”
“I loved taking risks and meeting new and old friends.”
“Everything was so awesome.”
“I loved it. It was amazing. Can’t wait for next year!”
As you can see, the Key Leader experience is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students from around the state to learn and grow as servant leaders while having an amazing time and forming new friendships.

The Key Leader team is blessed to have Division 10 Key Club Lt. Governor Jen Spell as our Key Leader Ambassador this year. I am so excited to work with Jen and the entire Key Club District to once again spread the word about this awesome opportunity for Key Clubbers and all of our youth throughout the Alabama District!

Please consider joining the Key Leader team now to help us market and recruit emerging leaders in your community to attend Key Leader this April. We must continue this program as it offers so many benefits to our youth, and we need the support of the entire Kiwanis family to provide this fabulous opportunity.

Please “follow” Alabama Key Leader on Instagram to see more photos from our events.

Interested in learning more? Check out www.key-leader.org, or email Key Club Lt. Gov. and Key Leader Ambassador Jen Spell at jspell@alabama-keyclub.org.

Contact Key Leader District Chair Jamie Brabston by email at jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com, or by phone at 256-679-6341.

Have questions? Call the Kiwanis District Office in Birmingham at 205-945-1334
Support Alabama District’s Key Leader Weekend April 21-23, 2017

Make ‘Harvey Watson Commitment’: Give $1,000 to the RIF Future Fund

“‘The Bears’ Picnic” by Stan and Jan Berenstain is the favorite children’s book of Alabama Kiwanis Governor Keith Graham.

He says this book about a bear family was the first book he learned to read all by himself. And that first spark of word recognition ignited a lifelong love of books -- one he passed on to his daughter, Emily Ruth Graham.

That’s why Graham is focusing on one program during his year as governor: Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

He knows what learning to read and having books close by can mean to a child, and as a certified public accountant, he understands the value of setting aside some money to grow over time.

He is seeking $100,000 in pledges and donations in 2016-17 and creating the Reading Is Fundamental Future Fund. The long-range goal will be $250,000.

In recent years, Graham watched as the Alabama Kiwanis signature project lost federal funding and had to start new fundraisers, and he realized an endowment could be the answer.

These “Forever Funds” were established by the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation last fall, and each $1,000 gift will be recognized as a Harvey Watson Commitment, named for a late governor with a strong commitment to children’s causes.

Graham is pleased with the early response and said the first 250 donors to make the Harvey Watson Commitment and give $1,000 will receive numbered plaques and pins.

For information, email Graham at kgraham@gbcpa.net or call him at 251-751-4468.

A pledge may be paid over five years, or you may simply send a $1,000 contribution designated for the RIF Future Fund to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, Attention Treasurer Mike Winstead, P.O. Box 849, Opelika, AL 36803-0849.

Order new RIF reading calendars for 2017

A new “See the Need to Read to a Child” photo calendar for 2017 is awaiting your orders.

The first such calendar, “Get Caught Reading to a Child,” was created by Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental to celebrate its 25th anniversary last year, and it was so successful that RIF Executive Director Cathy Gafford decided to create another calendar for 2017.

The calendar sales help buy books to send home with children after Kiwanians and other volunteers read to them in classrooms. Photos were submitted of Kiwanians, teachers and others reading to children, and people voted for their favorites last fall.

The calendars will be sold at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 24-25 and can also be ordered from the RIF office in Opelika and shipped (or picked up there with no mailing cost). The price is $12 per calendar if you buy one to four copies, plus shipping of $3.95 for one to four.

“I hope clubs will buy several dozen calendars and use them as speaker gifts at their meetings, as many did last year,” Gafford said. The more you buy, the less they cost, “and this kind of gift shows Kiwanis service and provides information about Kiwanis in general across the state.”

Calendar pricing is on the RIF website at www.jeandeanrif.org. Go there for the link to order, or find the online order form with instructions for using credit cards and PayPal at getcaughtreading.jeandeanrif.org. Or you can mail a check for calendars and mailing costs to Jean Dean RIF, 1105 Fitzpatrick Ave., Opelika, AL 36801.

“The $12 price is the same as our RIF cost to provide three quality, age-appropriate books per child,” said Gafford.

By the time it turned 25, Jean Dean RIF had put more than 1.5 million books into the hands and homes of over 500,000 at-risk young children since 1991. This helps address illiteracy.

As the signature project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, Jean Dean RIF gets help from many Kiwanians and clubs toward buying books and reading at Head Starts around the state.

“The calendar sales are another way of furthering our Jean Dean RIF mission: to provide books and volunteers to read them to help prepare these children to be ready for kindergarten and have the hope of doing well in school and life,” said Gafford.

She said other annual fundraisers held in Opelika that help RIF buy books include the Auburn-Opelika Emblem Club’s Pancake Breakfast benefiting RIF that was held Feb. 4, the Run to Read held each fall, and the Truel Watts Ride to Read involving motorcycles on the first Saturday in June each year.

For information, call 334-749-5631 or email jeandeanrif@gmail.com.
Service at Christmas: Clubs help around state with elves and funds

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Homewood/Mountain Brook participated in the Homewood Christmas Parade Dec. 6. They spread the word about Kiwanis by wearing their Kiwanis shirts while riding or walking beside a float decorated with a Kiwanis banner.

Santa and his helpers from the Kiwanis Club of Daphne-Spanish helped kids go Christmas shopping at J.C. Penney department store. This club meets every Wednesday at noon at the Lake Forest Yacht Club overlooking Mobile Bay. They regularly invite guests to join them for lunch “and find out how you can make a difference. We have something for all ages.”

Santa (with President Glen Williams) spoke at the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden. Kiwanians collected money at Salvation Army kettles and held a children’s party with gifts.

Members of Huntsville West Kiwanis Club rang the bell for the Salvation Army on Dec. 17 at Sam’s Club on University Drive. Barry Beavers dressed as an elf, while his brother, Scott Beavers, wore a Santa suit. “We drove up in my little Fiat 500, and kids were waving and people taking pictures,” said Barry Beavers. “I guess they thought it was our sleigh.”

Oxford buys Yule gifts

The Kiwanis Club of Oxford used money raised during its two annual fundraisers, a peanut sale and car show, and the generosity of members to purchase Christmas gifts for a special family.

East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy put them in touch with the family, and they presented the gifts during the club’s Christmas luncheon.
Birmingham club to celebrate its 100 years with $4 million Vulcan project

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham — the largest Kiwanis club in the world — wanted to make a difference through funding a special project to mark its 100th anniversary in 2017.

The club decided to spearhead a $4-million upgrade of Vulcan Park, a Birmingham attraction visited by thousands each year.

The work will take place in several stages. Birmingham Kiwanis Club President Tom Thagard hopes to hold a ground-breaking event on May 19, 2017, the club’s 100th anniversary date.

“Supporting and strengthening our city has always been the mission of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham. Invigorating Vulcan’s role as the unifying symbol of Birmingham is fitting for our club’s Centennial Project. We hope that it will serve as a catalyst for renovation, rejuvenation and transformation for a new Birmingham,” Thagard said.

The north side of the park will be renovated as an event space to be called Kiwanis Centennial Park. This will include steps to walk up to the iron man statue that towers

Sweets to help kids

Monroeville Kiwanians were on a sugar high in early December following the club’s annual cake auction to raise money for Angel Tree, a program to provide toys for low-income children. The club raised more than $4,600 in one hour by auctioning 40 cakes and other desserts made by some of the best local cooks. Shown calling for bids are Kiwanian and Monroe County Probate Judge Greg Norris, top left, and Kiwanis auction chairman Tom Lomenick, left. Keeping the books were Treasurer Phil Allen and President Jodi Chambers.

Indian Springs collects children’s coats, gloves, hats

A children’s winter clothes drive was sponsored in December by the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village, the Alabama District’s newest club.

They collected new and gently used children’s coats, gloves, hats and socks. The Indian Springs Village Town Hall and the North Shelby Fire Station served as drop-off points through Dec. 21.

Huntsville West plans raffle drawing in March

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West is holding another winter fundraiser in addition to its pancake day.

Members are selling raffle tickets for a new Beretta 90-Two handgun. The donation is $20 for five tickets, or $5 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased for any member or at store6670320.ecwid.com. The winner must be at least 18 and pass a background check.

The club will pull the winning ticket live March 16; watch at www.facebook.com/KiwanisHuntsvilleWest. Funds will aid children’s service projects.

Zeller Award

Gray Englebert, immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Daphne-Spanish Fort, was presented a Zeller award by his club for leadership and service during 2015-16.
Deadline for the spring edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is April 20, 2017

**Monroeville top Kiwanian, Citizen**

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville named two-term Division 12 Lt. Gov. Jonathan Dick, left, as its Kiwanian of the Year and longtime Boy Scout leader Rick Dorrance, right, as its Citizen of the Year at its annual December Awards Night banquet. Club President Jodi Chambers, center, presided at the event, and Clayburn Cox, a high school teacher and comedian from Auburn, entertained Kiwanians and guests. Dick, who moved to Monroeville in 2004 to work with United Bank, has served as club president, board member and delegate to district and international conventions. He and his wife, Gail, are now retired and volunteer in the community. Dorrance and his wife, Belinda, moved to Monroeville 38 years ago, and he is a retired forestry instructor at the local community college. Both honorees are active in the United Methodist church. Kiwanians Margaret Murphy and David Hutcherson headed the award selection committees.

**Vulcan**

(From Page 12)

over Birmingham plus landscaping and a renovated lower piazza entrance that will reconnect the landmark to downtown.

A 2-mile jogging and biking trail is part of the second stage. It will extend Vulcan Trail to Green Springs Highway and is expected to be a hub for Birmingham’s planned 750 miles of trails.

The final touch will be a multicolored light show that will light up the Vulcan nightly, similar to the computerized LED light show at the Empire State Building in New York City.

Birmingham Kiwanis and the Vulcan are a logical pairing for a 100th-anniversary celebration.

The world’s largest Kiwanis club has deep roots dating to the Birmingham beginning of Kiwanis, and the Vulcan is the world’s largest cast iron statue, designed by Italian artist Giuseppe Moretti and cast from local iron in 1904. It was displayed at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904 and then returned to Birmingham to spent about 30 years at the Alabama State Fairgrounds. In the 1930s, Birmingham Kiwanians and other leaders worked to move the iron statue atop Red Mountain where it could be better seen daily by everyone.

The Vulcan was closed for a restoration project in 1999 and reopened in 2004 after repairs and upgrades.

Soon Kiwanis Centennial Park will “reconnect Vulcan to Birmingham physically, visually and in spirit,” Thagard said.

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham plans a capital fund drive over five years to raise funds from club members and corporate and civic foundations. The Freshwater Land Trust will help with easement contributions and is partnering on the project with Birmingham Kiwanis, Vulcan Park and Museum, and the City of Birmingham.

Photos, pledge and donation forms and more are on the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham’s website at kcob.org.

**Alabama District Convention**

Aug. 18, 19 and 20, 2017

The Hotel at Auburn University

Details are being finalized and will be available at the Mid-winter Convention

**Oxford award**

The Kiwanis Club of Oxford named Chris Fuller its 2016 Kiwanian of the Year, recognizing him for the “tremendous job” he did during the last year.
Recruit new members and volunteer to help with The Formula and I-Plan
Alabama District of Kiwanis International

Mid-winter Conference
Prattville, AL • Marriott Legends Conference Center
Feb. 24-25, 2017

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM
Make check payable to: Alabama District Kiwanis
Mail to: Alabama District Kiwanis • 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206 • Birmingham, AL 35209

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REGISTRATION (due by Feb. 15, 2017; late fee: $15 per person)

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<td>Friday night Awards Dinner</td>
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<td>Kiwanis member registration (includes Saturday breakfast &amp; lunch)</td>
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QUESTIONS? Phone District Secretary Patricia Manasco, (205) 945-1334, or email dist_sec@alkiwanis.org.
If you prefer to register online, go to www.alabama.kiwanis.org.
ROOM RESERVATIONS: Contact the Marriott Legends Conference Center hotel directly at 800-468-3571.
Hotel address: 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066.