Beach convention Aug. 14-16

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Registration deadlines are almost here for the 2020 Alabama Kiwanis District Convention planned for Gulf Shores Aug. 14-16.

The 102nd annual convention will be held at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, a new, Hilton-run hotel that replaced the old facility destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.

“Despite the challenges we have faced as a result of the pandemic, the Gulf Shores Kiwanis Club and your District Board have put together a great meeting at a beautiful location. I look forward to seeing you there,” said Kiwanis Governor Bob Brown.

Go to kiwanisal2020.com to register for both the convention and rooms. The early-bird registration deadline is 11:59 p.m. Wednesday night, July 22, for the reduced convention fee of $125 (reduced from $225) and the special Kiwanis hotel rate of $159. The Kiwanis (See CONVENTION, Page 5)

The convention hotel is the Lodge at Gulf State Park, a new, Hilton-run facility in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

KI Council will choose leadership for 2020-21

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Alabama District Governor Bob Brown and other members of the Kiwanis International Council on July 25. Whom will the council elect to fill vice president and trustee slots?

Arthur N. “Art” Riley (left) of Westminster, Maryland, and Peter J. Mancuso of North Bellmore, New York, are expected to be elected president and president-elect of Kiwanis International for 2020-21 by the Kiwanis International Council on July 25. Whom will the council elect to fill vice president and trustee slots?

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

July 25 meeting will offer both in-person and online options for those leaders who cannot or do not want to travel across the country or around the world to the Kiwanis headquarters city of Indianapolis.

Brown plans to attend the meeting virtually and has asked the Alabama (See INTERNATIONAL, Page 7)

Register now for the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention at Gulf Shores Aug. 14-16, 2020
Mask your face, not your feelings

COVID-19 has changed everything. Even though it has only been about four months since reported cases in Alabama began increasing enough for us to start taking overt health precautions, it still seems like a lifetime ago that we could venture out to the grocery store or the pharmacy without donning masks and, in some situations, latex gloves.

I remember one morning in early April when I made a run to Costco to load up on supplies. I arrived at the store a full 30 minutes before opening, and the line already snaked down the side of the building and around the back, almost to the loading dock. I put on my mask and took my place at the end of the line, which quickly grew even longer.

Smile or frown?

A few minutes before the doors opened, I glanced at a man about 6 feet behind me. He kept tugging at his mask, first on one side, then the other. Mine was giving me fits, too, so I said to him, “You know, wearing these uncomfortable masks so much of the time has given me a whole new level of respect for bank robbers.” He didn’t reply verbally, but he nodded and I imagine he might have smiled. Or frowned. I couldn’t be sure exactly how he felt about my lame joke because … well, he was wearing a mask.

That got me thinking about the whole mask issue. The health benefits of protecting other people with whom you come in contact from any virus you might unwittingly spread when you cough, laugh or even speak are undeniable. But the downside of all of us covering the lower halves of our faces is that it makes it harder to read someone’s feelings at that moment.

Reading someone’s face to determine their reaction to something you say or do is important, and it is equally important that they be able to read your reaction to their words or actions. Yet, many of us have been encouraged throughout our lives to hide our feelings. In fact, there is an old saying to the effect of “Don’t wear your heart on your sleeve,” but I say the opposite. I say we should wear our hearts, our feelings, our passions on our sleeves. And it should look like this:

We are Kiwanians because we have a heart for children. We are Kiwanians because we have deep feelings about the communities we live in. And we are Kiwanians because we have a strong and unwavering passion to actually do something to make things better. So why wouldn’t we proudly wear the symbol of our commitment on our shirtsleeves, our pockets, our lapels, and perhaps even our masks?

They will notice

Why wouldn’t we want the world to see that bold symbol every time they observe us delivering food to those in need, reading to a child, building a playground for children with disabilities, providing meals for our exhausted health care workers, or raising money for the Covid unit of a local hospital?

These are all things that Alabama District Kiwanis clubs have done during the challenging times of this pandemic. There have been many more acts of kindness and selfless service as well — too many to mention — but you can be assured that every single one was noticed by someone in our communities. And when they also noticed that logo, that symbol of our feelings, they saw what we mean when we talk about the “heart of a Kiwanian.”

We don’t know how much longer we will need to wear masks to help curb the spread of the Coronavirus. But we do know this … kids will still need Kiwanis long after this pandemic is behind us. We will still be there for them, serving them and our communities with love and compassion.

And because we won’t be wearing masks, the world will be able to see us smiling as we do the work that defines us. Serving others gives us a feeling that cannot be matched by any other activity. So, until that day, let’s keep wearing our masks and showing our feelings! Kids need Kiwanis!

Club secretaries need to submit club election reports to Kiwanis International via the Secretary Dashboard.

Names and contact information for new officers were due June 1, and many clubs are missing out on education and training opportunities already being shared by Kiwanis International.
Ala. Kiwanis District cuts divisions to 8 from 14

A new statewide Kiwanis division alignment plan was approved by the Alabama District board in a called Zoom meeting July 19.

The board held several discussions and two meetings over eight days before voting to approve the plan, which was designed by Governor-elect Mark Kelleman of Fairhope.

The plan changes the number of geographic divisions from 14 to eight and puts the two largest clubs, Birmingham and Montgomery, in a two-club division together.

This will take effect Oct. 1, pending approval of Kiwanis International.

The full list of new divisions and clubs will be posted soon on the district website at alabama.kiwannis.org.

It will also be available at the Alabama District Convention Aug. 14-16 in Gulf Shores; that early-bird convention and hotel registration deadline is July 22, so register now.

In Phenix City, Mary Hoerlein shares a bench with a new statue of the late crimefighter Albert Patterson; in back are Kiwanis Governor Bob Brown and Lt. Governor Marvin Wagoner, right.

Phenix City is targeted for a new Kiwanis club

Several Alabama Kiwanis leaders visited Phenix City June 25 to start gathering information and developing a contact list in preparation for a club opening blitz in historic Phenix City. Making the trip were District Governor Bob Brown, Division 10 Lt. Governor Marvin Wagoner and Past Division 10 Lt. Governor Mary Hoerlein.

They had an informative meeting and a city tour with Phenix City Chamber of Commerce CEO/President Dennis Beson.

The Kiwanis governor reported that they also got to attend the official unveiling of a statue honoring Albert Patterson, a World War I hero and a lawyer who fought crime and corruption in Phenix City in the 1950s.

Shortly after winning the Democratic nomination for Alabama attorney general in 1954, Patterson was brutally murdered as he left his law office. His son, John Patterson, served as governor of Alabama from 1959-1963.

“We are very excited about our prospects for this new club,” Brown said. Watch for more details. Those who know people in the Phenix City area who might be interested in joining a Kiwanis club there should give Brown their names and contact information.
Alabama District Convention

Aug. 14-16, 2020
The Lodge at Gulf State Park,
Gulf Shores, Alabama

Tentative agenda

Friday, Aug. 14
Noon - 5 p.m. — Registration
Noon - 2:45 p.m. — 2019-20 District Board meeting
3 p.m. - 5 p.m. — AKF Board meeting
6 p.m. — Outdoor luau

Saturday, Aug. 15
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast on your own; coffee/juice service available
8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. — Opening Session
■ Call to order
■ Pledge of allegiance/invocation
■ Introduction of guests
■ House of Delegates — election of 2020-21 officers
■ Key Club governor remarks
■ CKI governor remarks
■ Special recognition — SLP administrators
■ Alabama Kiwanis Fund update
■ Kiwanis Children’s Fund update
■ Recognition of 100-year clubs
■ Recognitions by Immediate Past Governor Ben Taylor
■ Adjourn

10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — Workshops
Salon III:
■ 10:30, Generational diversity (Video)
■ 11:15, Generational diversity (Video)
Salon IV:
■ 10:30, Let’s give them something to talk about (KI Video)
■ 11:15, Meaningful service projects (KI Video)

Live Oak:
■ 10:30, Peer helper program, Allison Moore
■ 11:15, Peer helper program, Allison Moore

Cypress:
■ 10:30, Ready, set, grow (KI Video)
■ 11:15, Have fun at your club (KI Video)

Dogwood:
■ 10:30, Kiwanis youth protection (KI Video)
■ 11:15, Creating growth partnerships (KI Video)

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. — District Luncheon
■ Call to order
■ Pledge of allegiance/invocation
■ Introduction of head table and special guests
■ Roll call
■ KI trustee remarks
■ Keynote speaker — Quint Studer
■ Jean Dean Courage Award
■ AKF/Jean Dean RIF scholarship presentation
■ District scholarship presentation
■ Retirement and installation of District officers and board
■ Remarks — Governor Bob Brown
■ Acceptance Speech — Governor-designate Mark Kellerman
■ Plans for 2021 — midwinter trainings, ICON and DCON
■ Adjourn

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. — Past governors meeting
(Dinner on your own)

Sunday, Aug. 16
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast on your own
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. — Memorial Service
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. — 2020-21 District board meeting

‘Busy Leader’ author will speak during convention

The keynote speaker at the Saturday luncheon during the Alabama District Convention will be Quint Studer of Pensacola, a businessman, author, entrepreneur, visionary and mentor.


Studer is founder of Pensacola’s Studer Community Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on improving the community’s quality of life, and Vibrant Community Partners, which coaches communities in building a blueprint for achieving growth and excellence.

He speaks and works with communities across the country to help them execute their strategic plans, create a better quality of life and attract and retain talent and investment.

Studer currently serves as entrepreneur-in-residence at the University of West Florida, executive-in-residence at George Washington University, and lecturer at Cornell University.

Needed: new members

(From Page 1)

registration of $125 includes all meetings, the Friday evening luau and the Saturday lunch. Guests are $45 for the luau and $40 for the Interclub lunch.

No registration on-site

After that, you can register and reserve a room at the higher rates, but only until 5 p.m. Aug. 5, at which time registration will be shut down.

No one can register for the convention after 5 p.m. Aug. 5, and there will be no on-site registration, Brown said. “This is necessary in order to do the logistics and planning needed to ensure a safe meeting, given the lingering presence of the Covid-19 virus.”

Anyone who has not registered by Aug. 5 will not be allowed in because the hotel will have already finalized its set-up and meal plans with extensive public health precautions in mind.

“So don’t wait until August to register at kiwanisal2020.com. Go to this site by July 22 and save yourself a lot of money,” said the governor. “We want every club to send several members to this convention. And you are going to want to bring the whole family.”

Governor-elect Mark Kellerman promises he has ordered beautiful weather and perfect water for the convention.

Friday evening luau

Plans are to begin Friday evening at 6 with an outdoor luau, and start the opening session at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The morning will be packed, with elections, workshops, speakers, lunch and officer installations completed by 2:30 p.m. Saturday so attendees can enjoy free time.

Sunday morning will include a memorial service from 8:30 to 9:15 for remembering Kiwanians who have died in the past year.

The tentative agenda on Page 4 also indicates times of board meetings and other details.

Mary Hoerlein of Auburn, a past lieutenant governor, has announced her candidacy for vice governor (she was profiled in the Spring 2020 Kiwanis Kourier). Elections will be held during the opening session Saturday morning.

The speaker for Saturday’s Interclub Luncheon will be Quint Studer, author of several books about leadership, service and how busy people can handle them (see his information on Page 4).

Convention changes

Taylor Means, a past lieutenant governor and president from the Gulf Shores club, and his committee began planning for this convention more than a year ago. They must deal with hurricanes occasionally but faced some new challenges when Covid-19 appeared in March.

Means encourages Kiwanians to register for the convention, saying it is needed more than ever “for strength, unity, learning, and to address these new challenges we face because of the virus.”

The Kiwanis board voted July 12 to encourage wearing face masks, and that a separate seating area would be used for those not wearing masks. Soon after, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey announced masks would be mandatory, at least through July 31.

“We’re doing everything we can to socially distance and make it safe,” Brown said.

Masks will be available for those who need them, and Kiwanians have met with the hotel staff about precautions to be taken.

Hand sanitizer stations, single-serve beverages, reduced room capacities, using only every other chair, increased space between tables and chairs, larger aisles, reminder signs, and use of approved disinfectants prior to meetings and lunch are just some of the precautions to be taken, with local, state and federal guidelines followed. Kellerman, convention chair Taylor Means and his committee have copies of the lodge’s meeting and event safety guidelines.

If the convention has to be canceled, fees will be refunded.
Resilience is the word for 2020

Good morning, everyone. I hope you are having a great week.

To say this year has been “challenging” would be an understatement. With so many things out of your control right now, it is difficult to make any plans for work, school, family or fun. The word that keeps coming to my mind for 2020 is “resilience.” Resilience is the process of adapting in the face of adversity.

I recently was asked to speak about resilience and adversity to a Kiwanis club. While working on my presentation, I thought about how Kiwanis needs to be resilient as we face a growing number of challenges. During that presentation I discussed with the club our past and future, and of course right now, as well.

A few notable take-aways from that meeting are:

Show appreciation

We benefit from mindful and intentional reflections in gratitude. It can promote the release of neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine, which help us feel joy or happiness. Take a moment to say thanks to your fellow members, and create opportunities for your entire club to extend gratitude to your community and your partners.

When we collectively care for our members, we help create pathways to grow and foster resilience. When we scale these practices to the organization level, we unlock new potential to strengthen our clubs and enhance the member experience.

We need to embrace diversity and foster inclusion. Different types of people come together as one whole being. We should put all the opposites and differences aside and emphasize our main goal: serving the children and the communities where you live and work.

Clubs getting creative

No matter what the world throws at you, you can confidently keep growing your club with service and members while retaining your current members. This is indeed challenging right now; I understand that. However, as we have seen, our clubs have become creative over the past months not only for meetings but for service projects as well.

Post-pandemic plans?

I know Governor Brown has been working on setting your district up for the “post-pandemic” time. What is your club doing to prepare? Are you positioning yourself to be an active club in the “Great Comeback”? I have asked that every club bring in at least one new member between now and October. You know you can do this, and new-member dues are waived until the end of the year. We have this and will finish strong!

I am asking you to please not put negative junk in your brain or your body. Spend your time and energy thinking about the opportunities that will exist in the future. What are your aspirations? What can get you closer to that goal? Use this time wisely. Keep learning, and keep exploring. But remember that knowledge isn’t power; applying knowledge is power.

Some of the greatest innovations of all time come from times of crisis. Ingenuity and innovation are the tools of the Great Comeback. Mary Shelley, the English novelist, said, “Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist in creating out of void, but out of chaos.” Spend your time in the space of what you can control and what can be.

Focusing on needs

Alabama is positioned to have growth in membership and service this year, and I am so proud of each and every one of you for focusing on what your community needs and not focusing on negativity. Thank you so much for reminding me that we are all needed to continue to make an impact on the lives of children. As Kiwanis International President Daniel Vigneron reminds us: “Res Non Verba,” or “Actions, Not Words.”

Thank you for everything you do, and please remain safe and healthy.

“Adversity is like a strong wind. I don’t mean just that it holds us back from places we might otherwise go. It also lears away from us all but the things that cannot be torn, so that afterward we see ourselves as we really are.” — Arthur Golden
International
(From Page 1)

Kiwanis leadership for input on candidates. The KI vice president post has five candidates, and many trustee seats also will be decided.

The Kiwanis International Council consists of the Board of Trustees, past Kiwanis International presidents, current district governors, the Kiwanis International-European Federation president and the Kiwanis Asia-Pacific chair.

The Kiwanis International Board withdrew seven bylaws amendments and one resolution regarding a bylaw’s modernization revision that the House of Delegates from around the world was scheduled to vote on at the 2020 convention. The decision on how to handle these matters will be made later. Many are issues that have come up before: family memberships, remote voting, strong protection of the Kiwanis name.

The International Council members will elect the 2020-21 president, president-elect, vice president, three trustees representing the United States and Pacific Canada and one at-large trustee to the Kiwanis International Board. They take office Oct. 1. (More information on candidates and amendments can be seen at kiwanis.org/Convention/2020/elections-amendments.)

Votes will be taken on Arthur N. “Art” Riley of Westminister, Maryland, in the Capital District for the position of president of Kiwanis International in 2020-21 and Peter J. Mancuso of North Bellmore, New York, in the New York District for president-elect. They are the only announced candidates for these posts.

5 running for vice president

The five candidates for a one-year term as vice president are Chuck Gugliuzza of Homestead, Florida, in the Florida District; Richard “Dick” Olmstead of Lancaster, California in the California-Nevada-Hawaii District; Ernest Schmid of Einode, Austria, in the Austria District; Burt West of Divide, Colorado, in the Rocky Mountain District; and Terry White of Evansville, Indiana, in the Indiana District.

Also, three trustees will be elected for three-year terms on the KI board by representatives from the United States and Pacific Canada. The candidates are Roger Bell of Yakima, Washington, in the Pacific Northwest District; Kip Crain of Wooster, Ohio, in the Ohio District; Chuck Fletcher of Frankfort, Kentucky, in the Kentucky-Tennessee District; Nathaniel S. Kyle of Barboursville, West Virginia, in the West Virginia District; and Michael Mulhau of Interlaken, New Jersey, in the New Jersey District.

All KI regions will help elect one at-large trustee candidate for a three-year term. Candidates are Michael Fongue of Noumea, New Caledonia, in the New Zealand-South Pacific District, and Henk Oostdam of Boskoop, Netherlands, in the Netherlands District.

Memorial resolutions

Council members will vote on several memorial resolutions to honor five Kiwanis International past presidents who have died since the 2019 House of Delegates. They are Dr. John Button (2014-15), Frank DeNoto (1986-87), Anton “Tony” Kaiser (1987-88), Raymond Lansford (1984-85) and Florencio “Poly” Lat (2018-19).

July 25 livestream

A livestream of the July 25 International Council meeting will be available for all Kiwanis members to watch. Broadcast details are being shared through email, kiwanis.org and Kiwanis social media channels.

The KI Board of Trustees voted June 17 to convene the council to conduct the necessary business of the organization.

The Kiwanis International Board last convened council to conduct the annual business of Kiwanis International in 1944 and 1945 during World War II. Other councils have been convened throughout the years to confer with and advise the board.

Next year’s Kiwanis International Convention was scheduled about two years ago and is still planned for June 24-27, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

KI: Comply with guides issued by authorities

Kiwanis International, July 15, 2020

Kiwanis International acknowledges some communities are reopening and Kiwanis clubs have started meeting or will begin meeting shortly.

Kiwanis International does not mandate meeting guidelines; however, Kiwanis requires clubs follow World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local guidelines for public gatherings.

For Kiwanis clubs that meet in restaurants and venues, Kiwanis urges you to meet with the facility to understand all guidelines for public meetings.

These guidelines include, but are not limited to, social distancing, wearing face masks, and adhering to maximum number of people who can meet in gatherings.

Schedule for July 25 livestream
(These are Alabama times. Broadcast details are being shared through email, kiwanis.org and Kiwanis social media channels.)

8 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
□ Adopt memorial resolutions.
□ State of Kiwanis address by Executive Director Stan Soderstrom
□ Elections

7 - 8 p.m.
□ “Celebrate Great” ceremony
□ Farewell address by 2019-20 Kiwanis International President Daniel Vigneron
□ Presidential address by 2020-21 Kiwanis International President-designate Art Riley
□ Recognition of the 2020 Signature Project Contest winners
□ Announcement of the 2018-19 Distinguished Districts
□ Celebration of the 2020-21 Kiwanis International Board of Trustees
Bessemer celebrates 100th anniversary

The Kiwanis Club of Bessemer celebrated its 100-year anniversary at a June 24 luncheon.

Current members and many past members attended the event at the Legacy Bessemer YMCA and shared reminiscences and club history.

President Rex Parvin presided over the meeting.

The guest list included several Alabama Kiwanis officers and board members: District Governor Bob Brown, Division 6 Lt. Governor Jamie Brabston, Past Lt. Governor Rev. Carl Johnson, and Past Alabama District Governor Armand St. Raymond.

The club president presented a plaque commemorating the club’s 100 years of community service to Bessemer YMCA CEO Michael Talerico. The club meetings are held at the YMCA, which honored the club by naming a room The Kiwanis Room.

Everyone wore masks until they sat down to eat the catered meal.

“The luncheon was a great tribute to a club achieving that rare 100-year milestone, and I was honored to be a part of it,” said Brown.

The Western Star newspaper of Bessemer covered the event for its July 1 edition. Publisher Matthew Bryant made photos, and Southern Styles section editor Donald Jay Howton featured the club’s “century of altruistic service.”

The Kiwanis Club of Bessemer was organized April 7, 1920, according to Kiwanis records. J.E. Haflner served as the first president.

Howton wrote about the club’s early goals, mentioning that for over a century, the Kiwanis club has promoted “the daily living of the Golden Rule, cooperating in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which makes possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will; to provide, through this club, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic servitude and to build a better community; and promoting the application of higher social, business and professional standards.”

The Bessemer Kiwanis Club continues to sponsor area high school Key Clubs.

For many years, the club has held a fall pecan and nut sale that benefits its scholarship program.

Others attending the meeting included Wes Russell, Carol and Larry Parsons, Graham Clifton, Bill Beckam, Ashley Brazzel, CeCe Doss, Deloris McEniry, Lora Annello, Tawana Johnson, Susan Reeves, Earl Carter and Kita Jones.
Birmingham presents Youth of the Year awards

This year represents the 50th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham’s Youth of the Year awards program. The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham honors the area's best and brightest high school seniors based on academics, citizenship, service and leadership. Members have granted scholarships worth almost $230,000 to outstanding students since 1970. This year the club recognized five scholars pictured in the graphic, with Jessica Brouillette selected to receive the Overall Youth of the Year Scholarship based on an overall balance of outstanding achievements including academic success, unparalleled community service, and character. In lieu of a traditional in-person awards ceremony, the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham honored them across social media channels during April and at the April 21 club meeting.

Let other Kiwanians know what your club has been doing lately. Email photos and descriptions to kiwanis kourier@gmail.com.

Huntsville West back in action

When the Huntsville West Kiwanis Club resumed in-person meetings June 18, President Cathy Rosol invited Governor Bob Brown to attend. “The club went to great lengths to make the meeting safe, including masks, social distancing, and an individual table for each attendee,” said Brown, who identified himself as “the masked bandit” in the middle of the group photo. Division 1 Lt. Governor Mike Roddy also attended, and the club sang “Happy Birthday” and presented a birthday card to him since his birthday was the day before. Club members are resuming their many areas of service, including their popular Salvation Army canteen van, as well as their ongoing support of the Manna House food pantry. “It was fantastic to again be face-to-face with committed Alabama Kiwanians,” Brown said. “There were no handshakes, but lots of elbow bumps and air hugs.”
Clubs in Action

Vulcan fireworks photo contest

Vulcan Park and Museum held an #iheartvulcan photo contest with its Fourth of July fireworks show. The winners were chosen in three categories: most votes, staff favorite and most patriotic. The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham’s Centennial Project, which includes the Vulcan light show, was designed as a gift to the city of Birmingham in celebration of the club’s 100-year anniversary in 2017. Club members viewed the winning photos at a recent club meeting online.

Masked summer social in Huntsville

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville recently held its first “in-person” meeting since the Covid-19 quarantine was implemented. The July 13 outdoor event with individually packaged barbecue dinners was held at the large pavilion at Monte Sano State Park. The club usually holds an annual summer social, Picnic in the Park, but this year everyone wore masks (except while eating) and followed social distancing rules (except for the photographs). Hosted by President Worth Carter, the gathering also was attended by Kiwanis Governor Bob Brown and wife, Mary Lynn, of Hoover; Huntsville West President Cathy Rosol and some of her members; and Division 1 Lt. Governor Mike Roddy of Huntsville. Brown made some comments, and Huntsville members talked about their ongoing work with several community services and their preparations for a major child reading initiative in the fall.
Kiwanis International announces Signature Project contest winners

Kiwanis International

Thousands of Kiwanis clubs help millions of kids every year.

Signature projects are the hallmarks of that Kiwanis service. They can be playgrounds, parks, festivals, literacy mentoring, health and wellness events, fundraisers and anything in between.

Every year, Kiwanis International recognizes the best signature projects throughout the world.

This year, the Kiwanis International Board split the entries into two tiers. Tier I is for clubs with 27 or fewer members and Tier II for clubs with more than 28 members. The board made the changes based on feedback from members.

More than 350 clubs submitted their entries to their districts, and the districts selected the entries for the Kiwanis International contest. This year, 155 Tier I projects and 212 Tier II projects were submitted.

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees Committee on Service and Partnerships selected the top 10 in each tier. Additionally, the judges selected the gold, silver and bronze winners for each tier. These projects best meet the Signature Project criteria of being a recurring event, enhancing the Kiwanis image, making a significant community impact and strengthening membership and partnership opportunities.

**Tier I honors**

The gold or top award in Tier I for smaller clubs went to Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach in the Florida District for its Kiwanis READS! Summer Reading Challenge. The Kiwanis Club of Oak Lawn Area, Illinois-Eastern Iowa District, won the silver award for its Feed 6 Mega Event, while bronze went to Kiwanis Club of Adelaide Hills in Australia for its Kiwanis Book Shop.

Following are some details.

Gold: The Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach is creating energetic and passionate readers by building home and classroom libraries. So far, the club has provided 2,319 books to students and teachers at a local elementary school. The club says the project engages students. The school finished third among all Florida schools in the number of minutes read in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.

Silver: Along with the need for food assistance in greater Oak Lawn, Illinois, is an equal need to create a network of organizations working on hunger issues. The Kiwanis Club of Oak Lawn Area is working to fill those needs. The club co-chaired the Feed 6 Mega Event where 350 volunteers created 50,000 meals of enhanced macaroni and cheese for nearly 30 area food pantries.

Bronze: The Kiwanis Book Shop, run by the Kiwanis Club of Adelaide Hills, is the soul of the community in this Australia city. Money raised in the shop funds services for children and adults from underserved communities. The club gives AUS$5 vouchers to students in the Terrific Kids program to purchase books at the shop.

**Tier II honors**

The top three winning club Signature Projects in Tier II, for clubs with 28 or more members, were the Kiwanis Club of Prescott, Arizona, in the Southwest District, gold for its Live Annual Auction; Kiwanis Club of Ames-Town and Country in the Nebraska-Iowa District, silver for its Teen Maze; and Kiwanis Club of Mansfield in the Ohio District, bronze for “Friendly House.”

Gold: Going once. Going twice. Gone! Every year, the Kiwanis Club of Prescott auctions thousands of items donated by local businesses. The auction is broadcast on the cable access channel and by live stream for three hours every weekday night for two weeks. The nearly $175,000 raised every year is used to fund many community programs. This signature project has been going on for so long that some current members remember their grandparents participating.

Silver: Choices have consequences — good and bad. It’s a lesson the Kiwanis Club of Ames-Town and Country is teaching through its signature project. Teen Maze, an interactive two-hour game, helps teens understand how to make intelligent, informed decisions.

Bronze: The Friendly House provides an affordable and safe after-school program for families in Mansfield. To help kids get there, the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield celebrated its 100th anniversary by providing the center a bus, and it hopes to buy a second one. Since 1922, the club has donated $3.3 million in funds and services to the program.

The announcement of winners were made during a broadcast on the Kiwanis International Facebook page on June 17.

Have Kiwanis questions? Call Alabama District Secretary Tammy Driskill at 205-945-1334
By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Kiwanis clubs often become known for annual fundraisers and service projects, and that is the case with the Hoover-Metro and Huntsville West clubs.

The Alabama District chose to submit the Signature Projects from those clubs as its entries in the 2020 Kiwanis International competition, which was divided into large clubs and small clubs for the first time.

The Hoover-Metro Kiwanis annual Charity Golf Classic competed in Tier II, the category for larger clubs (28 or more members), while the annual Pancake Breakfast by Huntsville West was entered in Tier I (clubs with 27 or fewer members). The 2020 international winners are featured on Page 11.

In Alabama, the competition was hotter than usual because last summer, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery came home from the Kiwanis International Convention in Orlando with the top prize in the world in Kiwanis International’s annual Signature Project contest.

That honor, in recognition of the club’s work during 65 years of sponsorship of the Alabama State Fair as a way to make money (more than $7 million since 1954) to give to other agencies serving children, drew more interest from Alabama clubs.

This year, five clubs submitted their Signature Projects to the district. Along with the Hoover-Metro and Huntsville West entries that were chosen to compete at the international level, the Eastern Shore/Fairhope club, Anniston club and Indian Springs Village club entered their well-planned events.

Here’s information on each project:

- For 27 years, the Kiwanis Club of Hoover-Metro has held its annual Charity Golf Classic as a major fundraiser to support charitable efforts to help children, teens, families, kids and adults with disabilities, and veterans. Most of the 37 club members help with the April event, starting eight months early to recruit teams and sponsors and gather donations and prizes. Key clubs from Spain Park and Hoover high schools assist at Riverchase Country Club. About 100 attend, with club member donations paying for a couple of golf teams for military personnel. The Golf Classic raised $24,620 before expenses in 2019 and also helped the club gain about 10 new members. Signs along the golf course, as well as some exhibit booths, highlight the charities served, including Safehouse, Adaptive Aquatics, Smile-a-Mile and Restoration Academy.

- A deluxe pancake breakfast has been a fundraiser for 20 years for the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West. This 20-member club served 250 and raised $7,500 in 2019 with the help of ticket sales, banner ads and placemat ads.

Circle K members from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Key Club members from Gateway Academy in Huntsville help greet and seat people, as well as helping prepare and serve food, set up and clean up. Along with raising money for the club to donate to various agencies, the event draws in new members for Kiwanis and makes people aware of its Service Leadership Programs for youth.

- The third annual Bicycle Giveaway Project by the Kiwanis Club of Anniston saw 260 school-age children from primarily low-income families receive bicycles at the holidays. About 20 of the 82 club members helped with the event, assisted by members of the Jacksonville University Circle K and (See SIGNATURE, Page 13).

Circle K and Key Club members, top, helped the Huntsville West Kiwanis Club at its Pancake Breakfast by greeting and seating guests and many more duties. Below, golfers compete in the Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club’s Celebrity Golf Classic at Riverchase Country Club. The Signature Projects of those two clubs were chosen to compete at the Kiwanis International level.
On racism, listening is not enough

By Stan Soderstrom
Executive director, Kiwanis International

Watching the civil unrest in the United States in recent
days, our organization’s initial response was to encourage
calm and patience — and to listen.

In recent days, we have heard from some members who
have told us that is not enough.

We are listening. We are learning.
And as we do, we also want to be clear
on where we stand.

Kiwanis International does not tol-
erate racism. We know that black lives
matter. We value inclusion from every
community in every nation.

We also know there’s more work to
be done.

We know that in the United States,
citizens have a right to protest, to ad-
vocate and to petition their govern-
ment for redress of grievances. We
support both the responsible exercise
of this right and the freedom to use it without the fear of
physical violence.

We are saddened by the vandalism and violence but can
understand how we’ve gotten here.

The Kiwanis family will continue to stand for bringing
people together to make a difference in any and every com-
community we can. Our solution is not to be the loudest voice
on any specific issue, but to help everyone see that resolution
can only come by listening and working together.

That has been a successful strategy for Kiwanis for more

Signature
(From Page 12)

the Donoho School Key Club. Bill Wake-
field of Martin’s Family Clothing provided
372 bikes (some went to the Oxford, Pell
City and Gadsden clubs), event space and
some employee help, while B.R. Williams
donated warehouse and assembly space
and two 18-wheelers and drivers to trans-
port the bikes. The club coordinated with
local schools and churches, Boys and Girls
Clubs, and the state Department of Hu-
man Resources to determine bike recipi-
ents. Santa and the Grinch entertained
children at the giveaway.

■ The Best of the Bay Gumbo Cham-
pionship and Fall Festival has been held for
nine years by the Kiwanis Club of Fair-
hope/Eastern Shore, which has about 33
active members. About 500 people at-
tended and tasted, raising more than
$18,000 to benefit children. The event in-
cludes a kids’ area and a local band play-
ing, and it is certified by the World Food
Championship so the winner can go to the
championship competition. In 2019, the
club added 15 booths of local arts and
crafts, and it hopes to expand to 20 or more

■ Chromebooks for Eagles is a two-year
 effort by the 4-year-old Kiwanis Club of
Indian Springs Village to make sure every
student at Oak Mountain High has access
to a Chromebook computer. They also
reached out to schools serving younger
students and provided some to them, with
992 students helped. Many have donated
to this project, including The Southern Co.
at $20,000, and the schools helped with in-
kind services. The club, with 28 members,
raised money through a pancake breakfast
and selling burgers and hotdogs at the
town’s Easter egg hunt, as well as asking
other businesses and individuals for dona-
tions. They gained several new members
because of this project.

Dr. Dale Elliott, a past presi-
dent of the Kiwanis Club of In-
dian Springs Village, with one
of several shipments of
Chromebooks to Oak Moun-
tain High in 2019. He helped
spearhead the Chromebook do-
nation project for his club.

Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is Sept. 1, 2020
Kiwanis Children’s Fund grants helping kids affected by Covid-19

When the Covid-19 pandemic began affecting children around the world, many Kiwanis clubs saw the need and increased their service, with the help of the Kiwanis Children’s Fund and its Covid-19 Response Program.

The virus caused several problems for many of the 1.5 billion children who had to stop going to school. Some who got a meal or two at school every day were going hungry, and others had no access to computers and internet to get their schoolwork done from home.

Armand St. Raymond, a past governor of the Alabama District and member of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, joined the international board of the Kiwanis Children’s Fund just a few months before the virus started making news all over the world.

He and other Children’s Fund board members know that during this time of uncertainty, kids need Kiwanis more than ever. They created the Covid-19 Response Program to help clubs help children affected by the pandemic.

The Kiwanis Children’s Fund has awarded more than $115,000 in grants to help Kiwanis clubs meet the urgent needs of children and families.

For now, they have stopped accepting applications. They are requesting donations and will resume making grants if additional funding becomes available.

Donate by going online to kiwanis.org, clicking on Kiwanis Children’s Fund at the top and then, on the next screen, click “Give.” Choose from a dozen or so ways to give. Donations may be eligible for a tax incentive enacted in the Covid-19 Cares Act.

Meanwhile, read about what some clubs are doing to help children.

The Scarborough Kiwanis Club in Tobago is using its grant from the Covid-19 Response Program to provide food, laptops and internet service to 30 children in six families. They started delivering food and then learned of other obstacles families faced, such as a family with six children who were all trying to do their schoolwork on their father’s smartphone.

Nearly 830 million young learners globally lack access to a computer, according to the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). “We knew this was a problem, but no one knew how large it was until Covid-19 happened,” said one Kiwanian.

The Kiwanis Club of Kanata-Stittsville is using a grant from the Children’s Fund to fill technology gaps in Eastern Ontario through its Kiwanis Computers for Kids program (similar to the project started a couple of years ago by the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs, south of Birmingham, Alabama).

The Ontario Kiwanians are buying Chromebooks that students can keep. They already had raised enough money to purchase 60 computers; the grant will allow the clubs to give away an additional nine to 11 Chromebooks.

They learn about circumstances and try to help: for example, computers have been given to Canadian First Nation families; a family who recently immigrated to Canada from Equatorial Guinea; a family with five siblings, including two with learning delays; and siblings living with their elderly grandmother.

In the Italian region of Sicily, the Kiwanis Club of Valle del Simeto helped 100 families and children and the local hospital during the emergency and continuing economic problems brought on by Covid-19. With the help of the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, they donated food and other items, because the club believes “where there are needs, Kiwanis is present.” For other examples of Kiwanis clubs helping children around the world, see the next page.
How clubs and Children’s Fund work together around the world

Here are some examples of clubs helping others with the assistance of Kiwanis Children’s Fund grants:

- The Kiwanis Club of Tokyo is focusing on helping state-run children’s homes by buying computers and tablets to help children who don’t have access to technology.
- The Kiwanis Club of New Iberia, Louisiana, is working with a social service center and area churches. The club is buying non-perishable food items to distribute at a drive-thru location and hopes to pack up to 1,000 bags of food.
- The Kiwanis Club of Tambun, Perak, Malaysia, is providing lunch and dinner box meals to an orphanage, as well as homes that assist the disabled and elderly. The club has been able to distribute more than 25,000 box meals.
- The Kiwanis Club of Beaver Creek, Ohio, will use its Children’s Fund grant to help Feed the Creek food pantry, which is supplying more than 4,500 breakfasts and lunches to children who are no longer receiving meals at school.
- The Kiwanis Club of Magandang Gensan, South Philippines, will provide 150 families with surgical masks, hand sanitizer and food packs. The club also hopes to teach unemployed mothers how to sew reusable face masks to bring in money for their families.
- The Kiwanis Club of North Shore Long Island, New York, is donating canned goods and other non-perishable food items for two food pantries that opened at the local schools. Students can pick up “grab and go” meals five days a week, and boxes of food are distributed to families once a week.
- The Kiwanis Club of Wakiso, Uganda, is using two public holidays to distribute East African food staples such as posho, a type of maize flour, and beans to 500 homesteads.
- The Kiwanis Club of Brecksville, Ohio, is partnering with the Brecksville-Broadview Heights School District Parent School Organization to help 33 families by purchasing and distributing grocery store gift cards to alleviate some of the financial burden during the summer.
- The Kiwanis Club of Sincelejo, Colombia, is working to provide food, health care, computers and internet service to families in Vereda Policarpa village.
- The Kiwanis Club of Chester, Virginia, is using the KCF grant to supplement contributions to a local food bank that is currently providing 330,000 meals to community residents.
- The Heartprint Kiwanis Club of Hsinchu City, Taiwan, is providing free, nutritious meals to as many as 300 elementary students whose parents have been laid off due to the economic fallout from Covid-19.

To help continue this service and more, make a gift to support kids’ greatest needs worldwide, especially urgent needs related to Covid-19.

You can make an online donation from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund website using a credit card, or mail donations to Kiwanis Children’s Fund, P.O. Box 6457 — Dept. #286, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Questions? Email: childrensfund@kiwanis.org.

Madison County’s top speller gets his trophy

Madison County and Alabama Spelling Bee coordinator Susan McDougal presented Christian Scruggs his trophy as the 2020 Madison County Spelling Bee champion May 4. The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville sponsors the Madison County competition and had planned a dinner and ceremony for the awards presentation, but because of the pandemic, Christian was honored on a Zoom call. The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation is the new sponsor of the statewide bee, which was scheduled for March 21 in Birmingham, but the Covid-19 virus caused cancellation of both that event and the Scripps National Spelling Bee in the Washington, D.C., area. Most Alabama counties held their spelling bees before in-person classes were discontinued, so Kiwanis clubs around the state could reach out and honor their local winners, perhaps at club meetings later this year. See a list of coordinators and more information at alabama.kiwanis.org/spellingbee.

Support your Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Kiwanis Children’s Fund with donations