Convention in Auburn
Aug. 18-20

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

There’s still time to register for the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20.

All events and programs will be held at The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center, 241 S. College St.

The number of representatives coming from Kiwanis International has grown to three, so Kiwanians from around Alabama need to be there to share ideas and learn about the latest plans and techniques for adding more members and supporting the youth clubs you sponsor.

KI speakers will include KI Trustee Fred Dietze, who is counselor to the Alabama District for the coming year; John Shertzer, KI chief programs officer; and Rhonda Vrell, KI regional development strategist.

On Saturday, Dietze will lead a morning session on achieving club excellence and also speak at the installation banquet that evening. Shertzer will address Kiwanians and guests at the Saturday luncheon, along with leading morning sessions on Service Leadership Programs. Vrell will talk about strengthening clubs and building new clubs when she joins Past Governor Brian Rodgers for a pro-

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World’s Kiwanians told in Paris: ‘Be passionate’

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Alabama delegates joined Kiwanians from around the world in Paris for the 102nd Kiwanis International Convention, where sessions on service and growth alternated with votes on candidates and amendments (see stories on Pages 3, 4 and 5).

Jane Erickson of Bellevue, Nebraska, 2016-17 Kiwanis International president, told the convention opening session that if we are to be successful, we must remember three things: “Be passionate, be grateful and be family.” Then she asked the crowd, “Are you passionate about Kiwanis?”

Erickson also announced the most

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recent victory for the Kiwanis world service project: Ethiopia has been added to the long list of countries where Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus has been eliminated, thanks to the Kiwanis Eliminate Project and its fundraising.

‘Courage to Inspire’ award

The keynote speaker was Ruby Bridges, a civil rights activist from New Orleans who was 6 in 1960 when she became one of the first black children to integrate the all-white public schools. She spent her entire year alone in a room with one teacher, Barbara Henry from Boston, who volunteered to move there to teach Ruby after locals refused.

Her walk to William Frantz Elementary was the subject of a Norman Rockwell painting, as well as a Disney movie, “Ruby Bridges,” and her own book, “Through My Eyes.” She created the Ruby Bridges Foundation to promote tolerance and respect and was honored with a Kiwanis International “Courage to Inspire” humanitarian award. Henry, her teacher and best friend, could not travel but accepted a “Courage to Care” humanitarian award at her Boston home.

Bridges said, “Looking out and seeing the diversity of your organization warms my heart. … I’m standing here today because of people like yourself — people who came together for me in 1960. … Now across the world, we see horrible things playing out before us. Your work is so important,” she said.

Asked what Kiwanis can do to help, she said, “Do the right thing.”

During the educational forums, topics included Kiwanis partnerships with groups such as Up with People and Junior Chamber International, along with ideas for signature projects and putting the fun in fundraising.

Speakers explored branding and the new marketing thrust, “Kids Need Kiwanis,” plus ways to energize clubs, obtain grants, attract new members and work with youth.

This was the first time the Kiwanis International Convention has been held in Paris, although one was held in Nice, France, in 1993. Marie-Jeanne Boutroy was chair of the host committee for the France-Monaco District.

This was a joint convention, with opening and closing sessions and some other events shared with the KI European Federation.

Entertainment at those sessions included the Garde Republicaine Orchestra, an accordion player, a mime, and an Elvis impersonator, who closed the convention, inviting everyone to Las Vegas for the June 2018 convention.

Bastille Day fireworks

Before and after the 4½-hour business session at the Palais des Congres on Bastille Day (July 14), convention-goers could view the flyover and military parade on the Champs-Elysees that were also watched by French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. President Donald Trump. The day ended with a concert and fireworks over the Eiffel Tower.

That evening featured a gala celebration of the 50th anniversary of Kiwanis International’s European Federation, with speeches, dinner and dancing.

A recognition luncheon honored finalists in the Signature Project program, while the Kiwanis Children’s Fund held a luncheon and annual meeting.

Art, cathedrals and more

Before and after convention events, Kiwanians and guests visited the Eiffel Tower and other sites that make up the history and artistic tapestry of Paris: the Louvre with its star resident, Mona Lisa, plus the Musee d’Orsay with its Vincent Van Gogh gallery, Musee de l’Orangerie with Claude Monet’s water lilies, and the Georges Pompidou Centre and National
James M. Rochford of Peoria, Illinois, was affirmed as 2017-18 president of Kiwanis International in a vote during the July 14 business session at the Paris convention.

Also approved by a vote was Florencio C. “Poly” Lat, Metro Manila, Philippines, who will move up to KI president-elect.

The two top officers generally move up with no opposition, while the post of vice president draws the most competition each year.

The office of international vice president was won by Daniel Vigneron of Howald, Luxembourg.

Vigneron defeated Dewey Smith of Albany, Georgia, in a runoff. The other two candidates for vice president were Barbara Thompson of St. Louis, Missouri, and Art Riley of Westminster, Maryland.

Those candidates plus trustee candidates had several hours during “Meet the Candidates” time on July 13 to talk with Kiwanians and campaign with T-shirts, fans, candy, pens and other giveaways.

Four men won seats on the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees during contested elections in Paris.

Three new International Trustees were elected from the United States and Pacific Canada Region:
- Greg Beard, Alexandria, Louisiana.
- Richard “Dick” Olmstead, Lancaster, California.

The fourth candidate was Cathy Szymanski of Wattsburg, Pennsylvania.

A fourth International Trustee was elected in Paris to fill an at-large seat:
- Ernest Schmid, Einode, Austria.

Frans van der Avert of Elsloo, the Netherlands, was also a candidate. Two other International Trustees were elected at their regional meetings:
- Peter Kimberley of Waverley, Victoria, Australia, elected at the Asia-Pacific Conference in March in South Korea.
- Paul Inge Paulsen of Florvag, Norway, elected at the European Federation Convention in July in Paris.

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Illinois’ Rochford named president; other top officers from Philippines, Luxembourg

International team will lead Kiwanis

Rip Livingston from Homewood, who was Key Club International President for 2015-16, was asked to make the nominating speech for KI Trustee Barbara Thompson, who ran for vice president.

Greg Beard of Alexandria, Louisiana, left, and other candidates for Kiwanis International offices campaigned and talked with delegates during a “Meet the Candidates” event July 13. Beard was among those elected to the KI Board of Trustees the next day. Alabama Kiwanians may remember him speaking at a Mid-winter Conference several years ago.

Tadao Oda of Sendai, Japan, left, and Nat Watson of Washington, D.C., right, stopped to congratulate Daniel Vigneron of Luxembourg, newly elected Kiwanis International vice president, before leaving the delegate assembly hall at the Palais des Congres de Paris.

Email news and photos of club projects to the Kiwanis Kourier, kiwaniskourier@gmail.com
Amendments pass on background checks, elections; plan to allow online voting loses

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Delegates to the Kiwanis International Convention in Paris debated six proposed amendments for several hours during the July 14 House of Delegates assembly.

Following are results for the proposed amendments. The first two were proposed and supported by the KI Board; the last four were proposed by clubs and districts and not supported by the KI Board.

No. 1: Approved a proposal to remove a provision that allows criminal history background checks conducted by districts to be considered equivalent to those conducted by Kiwanis International. The KI Board proposed this because, since its adoption in 2013, only two districts applied to have their preferred background check providers verified as being equivalent to those conducted by Kiwanis International; one did not qualify and the other was approved but later rescinded after further testing. There was concern about additional risk for districts and additional time spent by KI staff if a non-electronic process was used.

No. 2: Approved as amended a proposal to correct an oversight in the bylaws and provide a way for tie votes in international elections to be resolved in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order.

No. 3: Defeated a proposal to allow members who belong to more than one club to pay Kiwanis International and district dues only to their primary club but not their secondary club(s).

No. 4: Defeated a proposal to remove the limitation that only one person from a district may serve on the Kiwanis International Board at the same time.

No. 5: Defeated a proposal to remove the restriction that a person may not serve on the International Board for one full year after someone else from the same district has left service on the board (called the “dark year” restriction).

No. 6: Defeated a proposal to provide for candidate nominations and initial review of proposed amendments and resolutions at the International Convention, with final voting permitted online.

The convention credentials report stated there were 801 clubs represented. By July 14, 1,135 delegates and 311 delegates-at-large had shown up at the Paris convention center and been certified to vote. That’s a total of 1,446 delegates, with 1,240 handheld voting units issued at the door of the business session.

Only about 700 votes were cast on many proposals, raising questions that caused President Jane Erickson to comment that she could not force people to vote.

A request for internet voting has been brought up for several years but failed again.

One speaker said during the debate on that proposed amendment that failed, “What we’d like is to have more than 10 percent of our 8,309 clubs” to vote on proposals. But another said, “There’s no free lunch … You cannot sit home in your underwear and vote for our next officers … You should have to pay the same fee as all of us who came here.”

The KI board is concerned that web-based voting would further erode convention attendance. Computer access, time zone and language issues also were mentioned.

Auburn
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Program concentrating on The Formula.

Presiding at the 8:45 a.m. Saturday general session and other events will be 2016-17 Governor Keith Graham. He and his successor, Armand St. Raymond, will share their observations and plans at the Saturday evening banquet.

Going on all day Saturday until 4 p.m. will be the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation/Jean Dean RIP fundraising auction. Also, buy a $10 raffle ticket for a McEnroe racquet and help Children of Alabama United Appeal in memory of Past Governor Bob Palys.

After the 6:30 p.m. dinner on Friday evening, Kiwanians will be entertained and educated by five birds of prey and handlers from the Southeastern Raptor Center in Auburn. The Saturday night banquet will begin with a 6 p.m. social time before dinner and a performance by the Auburn High School Singers, plus the installation of officers and board members for 2017-18.

Every Kiwanian member is encouraged to attend, and every club should be represented. When clubs answer the roll call, it’s good to hear those interclub groups of four or more.

“We look forward to seeing you in Auburn,” said Mary Prather, who is co-chair for this convention and secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Auburn, the host club.

Check with the convention hotel to see if rooms are available, or reserve at another of the many Auburn area hotels.

For quick online registration, go to auburnkiwanis.org/2017convention, or click the link on the district website at alabama.kiwanis.org.

Be sure to click on the box for a detailed agenda to see times for various board meetings on Friday afternoon and the Saturday breakfasts, business session, educational programs, interclub luncheon and evening officer installation banquet, plus the Sunday morning prayer breakfast and memorial service.

Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is Oct. 20, 2017
Plan to attend the Alabama Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 23-24, 2018
Did you know your club can get a custom logo free from Kiwanis International?

That’s just one of many services offered, along with tips on how to build and update a club website, use social media, reach prospective members, and tell your club’s story.

Help with templates for PowerPoint presentations and club brochures are available from Kiwanis International headquarters in Indianapolis, too, as well as advice on the Kiwanis logo and colors. Many older logos are not to be used any more, as Kiwanis International has moved toward one look as part of its recent brand campaign.

Complete the form online at kiwanis.org to get a logo design (regular or for a special anniversary year), and allow about six weeks. For questions, email brand@kiwanis.org.

All kinds of communications help can be found online at kiwanis.org, such as templates for news releases and event fliers. The member resources section also has information on The Formula, training, reports, awards and more.

Alabama clubs can also direct questions to Patrice Stewart, Alabama District public relations chair and Kiwanis Kourier editor, by calling 256-303-1668 or emailing kiwaniskourier@gmail.com.

Send club info to district secretary

District Secretary Pat Manasco asks all clubs to send her their current meeting days, times and places, along with club officers for 2017-18 with email and phone numbers.

France
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Modern Art Museum.

Visitors looked at Notre-Dame Cathedral; Montmartre with the Sacre-Coeur Basilica; the Arc de Triomphe; the domed Pantheon, with crypts of philosophers Voltaire and Rousseau, authors Victor Hugo and Alexandre Dumas and scientist Marie Curie; and the national military museum, with tales of centuries of victories and losses, with medieval armor and all types of weapons, plus the story and tomb of Napoleon (and his favorite horse).

The Alabama delegation stayed at Le Meridien Etoile hotel across from the Palais de Congres convention center and dined at nearby sidewalk cafes. Evening walks through the City of Light were popular, along with boat rides on the Seine River. Some visitors took Kiwanis-sponsored tours to the Palace of Versailles, the D-Day landing beaches at Normandy and other sights in the region.

Kiwanians and guests attending from Alabama included Governor Keith Graham and wife Dee Dee, along with daughter Emily Graham; Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond; Ralph and Charlzie Cook; John Saxon; Gail Vaughan; Janet Byrd and daughter; District Secretary Pat Manasco, joined by daughter Ginger Busby and two grandchildren; and Kiwanis Kourier editor Patrice Stewart and husband Steve.

Rip Livingston from Homewood, past international president of Key Club, also attended the convention. He joined the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook, which sponsored his Homewood High Key Club, and was asked to give the nominating speech of Barbara Thompson, a Ki trustee who ran for vice president in Paris. He will resume his studies at Stanford University in California this fall.

Recruit new club members and help build new clubs to aid The Formula and I-Plan goals
Support RIF by making the “Harvey Watson Commitment” to the RIF Future Fund
Budget now for your club to sponsor teens at the Key Leader Weekend April 20-22, 2018

Photos by
Patrice Stewart
Past KI chief helps train lt. governors

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor


After covering nuts and bolts and timeline strategies, they had more advice for the incoming leaders who gathered June 24 in Homewood.

“Get back to (in-person) club officer training,” advised Palazzolo. “Presidents need to learn to lead a club, not just run a meeting.”

The two most important things they need to do in the coming year are to build new clubs and strengthen existing clubs, said Palazzolo, part of the KI growth team. He suggested they attend their clubs’ board meetings, along with four division council meetings, official governor’s visit and conventions, and “encourage service, fun, development, notoriety and active SLP sponsorship.”

The incoming governor asked his lieutenants to go out and get to know the clubs in their divisions. “Remember, you are the principal cheerleader for your division,” he said, asking them to let him know about those who bring in several new members and other accomplishments.

“Get to know the Service Leadership Programs in your area,” said St. Raymond, noting that parents of Kiwanis sponsored youth clubs may be membership prospects for Kiwanis. “Attitude is everything,” the incom-

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Governor talks RIF funding, children’s work in Monroeville

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville welcomed District Governor Keith Graham as its guest speaker for the noon meeting June 27 at Vanity Fair Golf & Tennis Club. Lt. Governor Jonathan Dick greeted Graham and his wife, Dee Dee, joined by Vice President Jeanie Smith, Treasurer Toni McKelvey, Secretary Phil Allen and President-elect Jeff Brannon.

Both Grahams are members of the Azalea City Kiwanis Club in Mobile. The governor explained his “Harvey Watson Future Fund” initiative to get Kiwanians to each make a $1,000 contribution or pledge to invest in a more secure future for the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program.

He also talked about Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson’s theme for this year: that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved.

Decatur funds bike rack in park, other projects

Thousands of dollars raised by the Kiwanis Club of Decatur’s annual Pancake Day has appeared in the community in many forms over the past 48 years.

This year, among $43,700 allocated to 23 organizations, some funds went to fund functional outdoor art.

A bicycle rack incorporating a Kiwanis logo has been installed at Rhodes Ferry Park, a popular gathering spot with a playground and a view of the Tennessee River.

The club sponsored the creation and fabrication of the bike rack, which was designed by Decatur artist Mary H. Reed. Soon a plaque will identify Kiwanis as the sponsor.

This bike rack is one of 14 already installed in the downtown area as part of “Rack ‘n’ Roll,” a project of the Carnegie Visual Arts Center in Decatur. Kiwanis also helps fund its “Kiwanis Creative Stations” to bring out creativity in children.

In previous years, the Carnegie spearheaded the creation and outdoor placement of large, artistically painted butterflies, dragonflies and roosters. The bike racks are a new idea this year.

All the bike racks used steel donated by NUCOR, a Decatur industry. They were manufactured at M&J Industries, sandblasted at TJ’s Sandblasting and coated at Line-X Decatur Customs. For more information, see www.racknroll.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters was another of the local organizations receiving some of this year’s Pancake Day funds. The club recently received photos of a back-to-school party and 40 backpacks filled with school supplies that Kiwanis helped provide.

Four signature projects receiving at least $5,000 each included Cook Museum of Natural Science, Decatur City Schools Foundation, Hospice of the Valley and Neighborhood Christian Center.

Decatur Youth Symphony, Boys and Girls Club and Morgan County Child Advocacy Center are among others receiving checks, which were presented in June during a noon Thursday club meeting at Decatur Country Club.
Ralph C. Honeycutt of Hoover was recognized by the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook in a July 12 ceremony honoring his 60 years of active membership in Kiwanis International.

Prior to his 33 years with the Birmingham area club, Honeycutt was active in Kiwanis clubs in Sylacauga and Gadsden.

Colean Black, a past governor of the Alabama Kiwanis District, presented the Legion of Honor award to Honeycutt, along with a scrapbook featuring his original application for membership to Kiwanis International and acceptance letters.

Following a career with AT&T, Honeycutt continues his interest in steam locomotives and associated trains. He remains an active leader in the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum in Calera and at Hunter Street Baptist Church.

The Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook welcomes guests and prospective members to its noon weekly meetings at Homewood Public Library. The annual Pancake Day and Silent Auction funds club charities.

The club sponsors Key Clubs at Homewood High School and Clay-Chalkville High School, Builders Club at Homewood Middle School and Aktion Club at The Exceptional Foundation. It also has quarterly dinners for parents of patients at Children's Hospital of Alabama, along with other community and youth events.

How you can help RIF

Want to help Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental? There are ways to assist during late summer and fall, said Cathy Gafford, executive director.

- Bring auction items to the District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20; shop the Saturday fundraiser.
- Attend the RIF breakfast from 7 to 8:15 Aug. 19, and/or the 11:15-to-noon session on RIF and the Alabama District Foundation.
- Make the Harvey Watson Commitment of $1,000 to the new “Future Fund” for Jean Dean RIF.
- Help label books at the Tri-K Family Service Day planned Sept. 23 from 9 to 2:30 at the RIF warehouse in Opelika. Bring goods to the “warehouse shower.”
- Bring gently used shoes to the convention or to the RIF warehouse in Opelika. RIF will earn funds in a shoe collection for other countries.
- Support the Run to Read in Opelika on Oct. 21.