



Alabama

# Kiwaniis Kourier

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## RIF Future Fund needs donors

A new initiative to enhance the financial future of the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program has been announced by Alabama Kiwanis Governor Keith Graham.

The Reading Is Fundamental Future Fund will seek \$100,000 in pledges and donations during the 2016-17 Kiwanis year, with a long-range goal of \$250,000 for Jean Dean RIF, a major service project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

This will be Graham's major project emphasis as governor, with "a singular focus" for his term, and he is thrilled with the immediate response that puts the fund at almost

one-third of the way to his goal for 2016-17.

"I wanted to bring our focus back to the district," Graham said, as Bob Palys did during his 2015-16 term as governor. Palys emphasized giving to RIF, Children's Hospital of Alabama, and backpack food programs for students.

"I believe in sowing seeds for the future," said Graham. "I saw RIF struggle as it lost federal funding and had to turn to fundraising to survive. Our foundation was the place to build an endowment."

Graham likes to think of it as "Forever Funds" (a term he

**(See RIF FUND, Page 3)**



## International president installs Governor Graham and other district officers

Alabama District officers for the 2016-17 Kiwanis year were installed during the District Convention in Birmingham by Sue Petrisin, 2015-16 president of Kiwanis International. From left are Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond, Immediate Past Governor Bob Palys, Petrisin, Vice Governor Ben Taylor and Governor Keith Graham. (See stories on Page 11 and elsewhere.)

## New club chartered in Indian Springs

A new Kiwanis club received its official charter during a Charter Night celebration Nov. 3.

The Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village plans to meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

The club plans to focus on projects that improve the lives of children locally and throughout the world.

An experienced leader is helping out. Brian Rodgers, who served as governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis in 2014-15, organized the club and will serve as its charter

**(See NEW CLUB, Page 3)**



Charter members of the Alabama District's newest club — the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village — are, front row: Jennifer Kiser, Emily Casey, Brenda Bell-Guercio, Kathryn Harrington, Natalie Steed and David Egge; back row: Holly Rodgers, Brian Rodgers, Dale Elliott, Rosalyn Crawford-Kendall, Keith Kendall, Jake Guercio, Hub Harrington, Richard Harley, Bryan Hix and Matt Casey. Not pictured: Eleanor Bennett.

**Plan to meet in Prattville for the Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference Feb. 24-25, 2017**

# Kiwanis year off to a great start

*'Energize the dream' with inspiration, impact, image, investment*

As you read this first Kiwanis Kourier of my term, the year is off to a great start. As Kiwanians, we are working to implement the I-Plan. In doing so, we are being challenged to Inspire, Impact, provide a positive Image and make an Investment in the children of our world.

I hope to share with you in each edition this year one component of the Kiwanis I-Plan at a time. This may prove to be a difficult challenge as much of what we do includes multiple aspects if not all of the aspects of the I-Plan. But let's begin with Inspiration.

We have a charge for this year which I believe embodies Inspiration. Our International President Jane Erickson has challenged us to "Energize the Dream" -- that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved. If we as Kiwanians take this challenge and charge ahead, there is no doubt that we can see the Alabama District grow even stronger in its commitment to

our children.

Since Oct. 1 when my term as governor started, I have seen much of our great Alabama District. I had the privilege of participating in the charter presentation for the new Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village. I have visited some of our clubs, assisted with installation of officers and most importantly heard of your contributions to your communities.

So in drawing from these first months and the stories I have heard, I ask: Why are you a Kiwanian? What made you want to become a Kiwanian? What makes you remain a Kiwanian? What is your story?

The reality is that each of us has a different story, and that story is unique to each of us. Allow me to share part of my story.



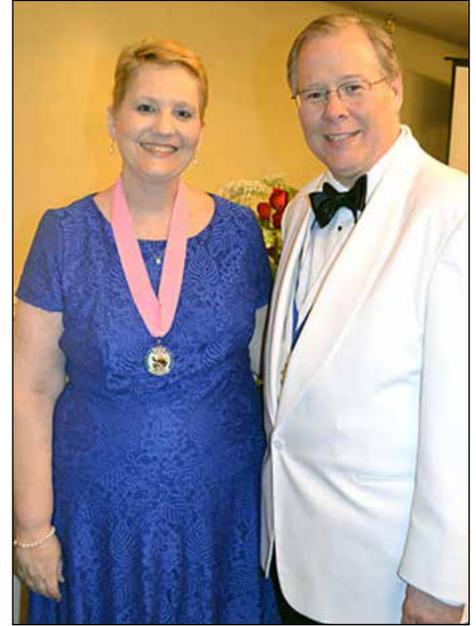
## From the Governor

By Keith Graham

### Started with new Key Club

It began 31 years ago when Azalea City Kiwanis (Mobile) chartered a Key Club at Mary G. Montgomery High School. I was a part of that new Key Club and was introduced not to just the Kiwanis Club but to Kiwanians. They together and individually made an impact in my life with the investment of their time, fellowship and leadership.

While I attended a college that did not have a Circle K club to continue my Kiwanis journey, I never forgot



**Governor Keith Graham and his wife, Dee Dee, at the Governor's Banquet and officer installation in Birmingham.**

being a part of the K family. They say the nut does not fall far from the tree; today Azalea City Kiwanis has been my home club for the last 18 years. I also recall that you can judge a tree by its fruit.

Today Azalea City through our Service Leadership Programs has the privilege of investing in the lives of two K-Kids, one Builders Club, five Key Clubs and one Circle K. In doing so, we hope to Inspire Kiwanians for generations to come.

Inspire new members

Kiwanis has focused valuable resources in The Formula. The Formula is the Inspiration component of the I-Plan. When we share our story by loving it, living it and sharing it, we will Inspire new members of Kiwanis. We will also Inspire our communities with the birth of new clubs.

We have been challenged as a district, and your Formula team is committed to building five new clubs in this Kiwanis year. You will have an opportunity to hear much more about

**(See GOVERNOR, Page 3)**

## Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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**Make the Harvey Watson Commitment of \$1,000 to the RIF Future Fund**

## Governor (From Page 2)

the formula at our Mid-winter Conference. The Formula team lead by Past Governor Brian Rodgers and Vice Governor Ben Taylor will have information and resources available to assist you and your club with Inspiring new members.

### My personal goals

As your governor, I set two Inspiration goals for myself. I committed to bring two new members into Kiwanis this year and to help build one new club (in addition to the five clubs mentioned earlier). As of this writing, I can report that one new member has submitted an application, and I have begun the process of meeting with community leaders in a community just outside of Mobile about establishing a new club. I pledge to do my part as I ask you to do yours.



*2016-17 Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson has challenged us to "Energize the Dream" — that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved. Her logo features the handprint of one of her grandchildren.*

One of the many ways you can Inspire is to plan to be a part of our Mid-winter Conference in Prattville. This is a time to have great fellowship and to also share stories of success while gaining ideas to Inspire and build member by member and club by club.

I look forward to seeing you in Prattville if not before then at one of your club meetings or projects. Remember to Energize the Dream -- that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved!

## RIF fund (From Page 1)

attributes to Past Governor Joel Williams) that will help support Reading Is Fundamental well into the future.

"And I believe that our individual Kiwanis members — many of whom give hours to read to children and support RIF in their clubs — will commit to this goal," he said. "I had been leaning toward a RIF endowment and wanted to do something significant."

Graham noted that these donations are being sought on an individual basis, rather than the club level. Also, the plan honors the memory of a past Alabama Kiwanis governor.

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation established the Jean Dean RIF Future Fund during the District Convention in Birmingham. This is a permanently restricted fund within the foundation. RIF is allowed to use the earnings once the fund reaches \$100,000. Each gift of \$1,000 will be recognized as a Harvey Watson Commitment.

"We chose to honor Past Governor Harvey Watson of Birmingham for his commitment to RIF in the early



Reading Is  
Fundamental  
Jean Dean RIF

years," said Graham.

Watson, who died in 2012, was a strong supporter of Jean Dean RIF, as well as the Kiwanis Young Child Priority One initiative.

The first 250 donors to make the Harvey Watson Commitment and give \$1,000 will receive special plaques and pins, numbered through 250. While people can still contribute after that, the recognitions will end at 250.

Graham added that Jean Dean RIF executive director Cathy Dean Gafford wants to create a recognition wall at the RIF building in Opelika, too.

Graham said he is pleased with the fast start toward his goal for this

administrative year: to get the first 100 Harvey Watson Commitment donors and raise \$100,000 toward the \$250,000. To date, they have over \$30,000 in pledges, and more than half is in cash contributions. A \$1,000 pledge could be paid over five years at \$200 per year.

Many approached him with donations in mind after his initial announcement at the District Convention in Birmingham in August, and more came forward at the RIF 25th Anniversary Gala Oct. 8 in Opelika.

"Some Kiwanians who have been involved in this for a long time were among the first to hand me a check," Graham said.

Gifts designated for the RIF Future Fund are being given to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations should be tax-deductible.

For information, email Graham at [kgraham@gbdcpa.net](mailto:kgraham@gbdcpa.net) or call him at 251-751-4468. You can also simply send a contribution designated for the RIF Future Fund to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, Attention Treasurer Mike Winstead, P.O. Box 849, Opelika, AL 36803-0849.

## New club (From Page 1)

president.

Dale Elliott is president-elect, and Natalie Steed is secretary/treasurer.

The charter board of directors includes David Egge, Hub Harrington, Jake Guercio and Keith McKendall.

Alabama District Governor Keith Graham and Division 5 Lt. Governor Robert Brown presided at the charter celebration, held at New Hope Presbyterian Church. Food and fellowship were part of the evening.

Other guests included Dee Dee Graham, wife of the governor; Pat Manasco, District Secretary; and Elise Hearn, president of the Kiwanis Club of Inverness.

Graham was the guest speaker, and then he and Manasco inducted the charter members, presenting certificates and pins.

Brown and Manasco installed the officers and board of directors.

Rodgers adjourned the event by ringing the new club's bell.

For information, email [kisv@alkiwanis.org](mailto:kisv@alkiwanis.org).

# Join the team to serve children

**By Brian Rodgers**  
2016-17 District Chair  
for The Formula

Are you a "Yes Person"? Are you someone who loves that Kiwanis is a part of your life?

Do you want others to have the privilege of being community changers and impact makers?

If so, we need you to be a part of the Alabama Formula Team.

Our goal is simple, but it requires you!

Grow and strengthen Kiwanis in Alabama to maximize the impact on the children of our communities.

This means strengthening our existing clubs through re-examining what projects we invest our time and



**Brian Rodgers**

resources in, seeking out new areas where we can have an impact, and inviting people to join us in making a difference.

No pre-existing preconceptions will get in our way, and we have resources to make this happen.

Here are our 2016-17 goals:

- Have team members from all 14 divisions
- Have membership chairs for every club
- Have monthly goals for each division
- Have a full team training at the February 2017 Mid-winter Conference
- Grow all clubs by 2-plus members
- Open five new clubs in underserved areas where #kidsneedkiwan-



is.

Without you, we can't make this happen. You will have training, resources and support to make sure that we accomplish these goals together.

Email [TheFormula@alkiwanis.org](mailto:TheFormula@alkiwanis.org) to say yes today and join the team!

## Clubs in Action



### Visiting Monroeville

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville was honored to have 2015-16 District Governor Bob Palys and his wife, Melba, visit Sept. 13. They were accompanied from their home in the Cullman area by Joseph Moore, a Circle K lieutenant governor. Shown are, from left, Division 12 Lt. Governor Jonathan Dick, a member of the Monroeville club; Bob and Melba Palys; Keith Baggett, Monroeville club president; Phillip Allen, club secretary; and Joseph Moore. Palys and others with one-year terms concluded them Sept. 30.



### Hoover Metro hands out checks



The Hoover Metro Kiwanis Club presents a big check for \$11,500 to Erin Bodden, director of Safe House of Shelby County. Shown are Jerry McClain, president; John Greene, vice president; Bodden; David Naefe, treasurer; and Bob Brown, lieutenant governor. The second photo shows a \$2,500 donation check presented to Restoration Academy's Director of Development Ty Williams (right) by Hoover Metro officers Greene (left) and McClain.



## Helmets and trikes for Jubilee Head Start



Trikes and bike helmets are headed to Head Start children as part of a service project coordinated by the Kiwanis Club of Daphne-Spanish Fort. Presenting new helmets to Jubilee Head Start director Kathy Myers (center) are Kiwanis members Marcia and Jack Gifford. The five helmets were donated by Daphne Walmart, while the Kiwanis Club of Daphne-Spanish Fort also supplied trikes obtained from Sam's Club.



## Vulcan golf tournament

The Kiwanis Club of Vulcan held its 18th annual golf tournament fundraiser July 30 at Highland Park Golf Course in Birmingham.



## Election involvement

Some Kiwanians held candidate forums, while others ran for office this year.

The Kiwanis Club of Helena hosted the 2016 candidates for City Council, providing an opportunity to hear from those running for council seats.

In Childersburg, Lt. Governor Pete Storey was a candidate for mayor during August municipal elections. He made it into a run-off election but did not win.

## Football parking project

The Kiwanis Club of Auburn has an interesting project, thanks to being in a university town.

Auburn fans can get their home game parking passes through the Kiwanis Club of Auburn and support its efforts in the community.

## Clubs in Action

### Commitment to Children's

The Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook has committed \$15,000 to Children's Hospital for a state-of-the-art iPad program that will be used in the operating rooms downtown and at Children's South to entertain and relax the children there.

"We are fortunate to help sponsor and partner with such a great facility that shares the Kiwanis mission to serve the world one child at a time," said President Tom Callison.

### Tour a school as a club program

When your club wants to try a different type of program or something new to do, consider touring a facility in your town.

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville decided to go tour a new high-school building on one of its regular meeting days.

The club sent out directions to Jemison High School, with instructions on where to park and enter the lobby. Kiwanians and spouses were invited to sign up for the tour and meet there by 5:30 p.m. on a normal meeting evening.

### Expanded Comedy Night

Kiwanis Comedy Night, a fundraiser started last year by the Kiwanis Club of Decatur, was expanded this fall to two comedians entertaining in the historic Princess Theatre in downtown Decatur.

On Oct. 13, Jody Fuller and Tim Steed kept the audience laughing for the benefit of local children and youth.

The event was open to the public, with \$10 tickets sold by Kiwanians and at the door.

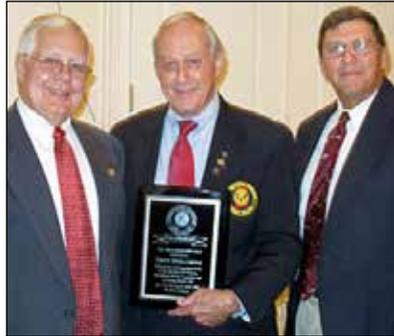
### Best of the Bay

The sixth annual Fairhope Kiwanis Best of the Bay Gumbo Championship was held Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Faulkner State Community College's Fairhope Campus Amphitheater.

Best of the Bay, People's Choice, restaurant and community awards were given. Tickets for the fundraiser were \$20 for adults and free for kids 12 and under.



Clockwise from top right: Among those receiving RIF paperweights were Paul England, Mike Roddy, Russ Grimes and Mike Winstead; Alabama Kiwanis Foundation President Russ Grimes, left, with silver anniversary RIF Barnett recipient Critt Snellgrove and his brother, Craig Snellgrove, right; volunteers Susan Anderson, left, and Shannon Duffy, right, with their silver RIF Barnett awards from Cathy Gafford, center; and Gafford and husband Doug Gafford and their daughter and son-in-law Meg and Tom Beard and 3½-year-old Luke.



# RIF's 25th anniversary gala includes celebration, awards and fundraising

**By Patrice Stewart**  
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Supporters of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental celebrated 25 years of providing books for young children in a gala at Saughatchee Country Club in Opelika on Oct. 8.

The evening included speakers, awards and a silent auction of baskets featuring children's books and related items headed by Past Governor Karla Moons.

A plaque and celebratory message were sent by Alicia Levi, president and CEO of the national RIF organization in Washington. She and others had planned to attend the banquet until Hurricane Matthew threatened the South.

While Jean Dean RIF serves Alabama, it is affiliated with the nation's largest literacy nonprofit.

"I extend my deepest congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to the Jean Dean RIF program on the occasion of your 25th anniversary," Levi

said in her message.

"Since 1991, the Jean Dean RIF program has served more than 525,000 at-risk children, distributing more than 1.5 million books to help build their home libraries and spark their imaginations. Children in Head Start programs in every county in Alabama have been served each year by Jean Dean RIF. This is tremendous!

"We at RIF National are proud of the work you've been doing and deeply appreciative. As one of RIF's largest programs serving preschool students and with such a significant statewide footprint, the effects of your service is far-reaching.

"The impact Jean Dean RIF has on these children and their families doesn't end there. In partnership with the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, you show children the power of caring adults in their lives who lend their time and talents."

## 'Books get you there'

The dinner speaker, Dr. Johnny Green, played football for Auburn University and taught political science and is now assistant vice president of student affairs for outreach.

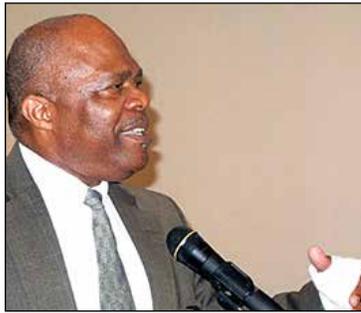
"Reading is so important and such an integral part of a person's success," he said, because that skill helps predict future income and achievement.

"Children enter school better prepared" when they have books to read, said Green. That's why Jean Dean RIF helps boost every "project child" like himself.

"Reading helps develop the mind," Green said. "Books get you there."

Cathy Dean Gafford, Jean Dean RIF executive director, credited her 94-year-old dad, Past Governor Joe Dean, with having the vision to start the program more than 25 years ago. Today it is the signature service project of the Alabama Kiwanis

**(See RIF GALA, Page 13)**



# RIF Gala

*Opelika,  
Oct. 8, 2016*



*Photos  
by Patrice  
Stewart*





### First board meeting

The Alabama District of Kiwanis officers and lieutenant governors met in Opelika Oct. 8 and in the morning worked with other K-Family members to label books in the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental warehouse. Then they moved to a nearby church for lunch and the first board meeting of 2016-17. That evening, some headed to the Saughatchee Country Club for a gala celebration of Jean Dean RIF's 25 years.

## Alabama District's officers and board for 2016-17

**Governor Keith Graham**

Azalea City Kiwanis, Mobile

**Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond**

Kiwanis Club of Birmingham

**Vice Governor Ben Taylor**

Kiwanis Club of Montgomery

**Immediate Past Governor Bob Palys**

Kiwanis Club of Cullman

**District Secretary Pat Manasco**

Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook

### 14 DIVISION LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

**Doc Overholt**, Huntsville Golden K, Division 1

**Dwight N. James**, Tuscumbia, Division 2

**Steve Thomas**, Jasper, Division 3

**Robert Lanoux**, Tuscaloosa, Division 4

**Robert Brown**, Hoover Metro, Division 5

**Carl E. Johnson Sr.**, Birmingham East, Division 6

**Don Ledford**, Anniston, Division 7

**Pete Storey**, Childersburg, Division 8

**Michael Fritz**, Capital City Montgomery, Division 9

**Gerald Knight**, Auburn, Division 10

**George McCleary**, Ozark, Division 11

**Jonathan Dick**, Monroeville, Division 12

**Taylor Means**, Gulf Shores, Division 13

**Kimberly Collum**, Azalea City, Division 14

Remember your Kiwanis district and international foundations for end-of-year gift-giving

# K-Family's partners join for events



Circle K and Key Club members from around the state, along with Kiwanians, came to Opelika to volunteer in the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental warehouse Oct. 8. They got busy labeling books. The Circle K board (top left) followed the lead of Kiwanis and held a fall board meeting that afternoon. (Warehouse photos by Jonathan Dick)



## Circle K students at convention

Several Circle K officers and past officers attended the Kiwanis District Convention in Birmingham with Administrator David Womack. From left are Governor Stephanie Fox, a senior at the University of Alabama; Womack; Circle K International Trustee Justin Crofoot, a junior at the University of Alabama; and Jessica Bloom, immediate past governor of Circle K in Alabama, who last summer graduated from Auburn University and started graduate school at the University of Alabama. A new club has just been organized at Enterprise State Community College.



## Key Club governor speaks

Alabama Key Club Governor William Sims, center, a junior at Homewood High School, talked about Key Club and also gave a tribute to 2015-16 Kiwanis Governor Bob Palys during the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention in Birmingham. He is flanked by Key Club Administrator George Price, left, and assistant Paul Sexton.

# RIF reading calendars available for '17

Got your 2017 calendar yet?

The new Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental/Kiwanis calendar for 2017 is now available.

Cathy Gafford, RIF executive director, wants every Kiwanis family to order several for their homes and offices and as gifts.

What better opening to tell about Kiwanis and invite a membership prospect than when someone asks "What kind of calendar is that?"

Also, Kiwanis clubs can order calendars in larger numbers to present to club speakers throughout the year, Gafford suggests.

New photos of people reading to children are featured in the 2017 "SEE the NEED to READ to a Child" calendar.

More than 2,000 copies of the first-ever reading calendars were sold last year, the 25th anniversary year of Jean Dean RIF.

That helped provide funds for RIF



to purchase books to send home with children attending Head Start and other centers around the state served by the RIF program.

Take care of some quick holiday shopping by ordering calendars, which help promote literacy. They are priced at \$12 to match the cost per child for Jean Dean

RIF, which provides three age-appropriate books to more than 20,000 at-risk young children around Alabama every year. Kiwanians and other volunteers read the books to the children before writing their names in them.

Prices are \$12 each for one to four calendars; \$11.50 each for five to 10; \$11.25 each for 11 to 19; \$10.80 each for 20 or more; and \$10 each for 25 or more.

Purchase calendars online now at [www.jeandeanrif.org](http://www.jeandeanrif.org) (direct link is <http://calendar.jeandeanrif.org>). You may also call Gafford at 334-750-9974 or email [jeandeanrif@gmail.com](mailto:jeandeanrif@gmail.com).



Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Treasurer Mike Winstead brought birthday cake for RIF's 25th anniversary for the District Convention.

## Who is your club's Membership Chair?

Who is your Membership Chair?

Strengthening Kiwanis in Alabama requires an intentional, deliberate commitment by every member and every club.

The Formula co-chairs, Vice Governor Ben Taylor and Past Governor Brian Rodgers, want you to join them in strengthening Kiwanis in Alabama.

### Step 1:

We need EVERY CLUB to have a Membership Chair with an active committee. Email District Secretary Pat Manasco ([dist\\_sec@alkiwanis.org](mailto:dist_sec@alkiwanis.org)) as soon as possible to let her know who your club's Membership Chair is (and include their contact information).

### Step 2:

Join the Alabama Formula Team as a Club Opener or a Club Counselor for your District. You will be a part of an active team and not working alone. You will also receive training in these roles so that you can learn about all of the great tools that Kiwanis International offers clubs to increase their impact. A winter training event will be held once team members are identified.

The Formula co-chairs can't do this alone and really need you to offer to make a difference.

### Step 3:

Email [governor@alkiwanis.org](mailto:governor@alkiwanis.org) today to join the team.

## Sponsoring member could win you a trip

When you realize that every new member of Kiwanis touches the lives of approximately 200 children a year, you start to understand the importance of bringing our message and mission to more people in our communities.

We all could use a Kick Start.

The Formula's new Kick Start program is all about motivating Kiwanis members to start the year off strong. We want more hearts and hands to join us in serving children around the world.

If every North American district brings in 100 new members we will build momentum toward making 2016-17 our strongest year yet.

For each new member you sponsor for a new or existing club between Sept. 25 and Nov. 30, you receive an entry in a drawing to win two round-trip airfare tickets.

Your entries will be recorded through the club secretary dashboard (if the new member joins an existing club) or through the club opening tool (if the new member joins a new club).

# Governor Keith Graham, other officers installed at convention

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Courier editor

Kiwanis International 2015-16 President Sue Petrisin was a guest speaker and installed officers during the Alabama District Convention in Birmingham.

Embassy Suites in Homewood was the site for the Aug. 5-7 convention, with members and guests also enjoying an evening at the Birmingham Zoo. The Kiwanis Giraffe Encounter, which the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham helped fund, was a big hit with all ages.

The Saturday evening Governor's Banquet featured the installation of officers and talks by Petrisin and others.

Chester Feagin, 91, the charter president of Azalea City Kiwanis in Mobile, Past Governor Karla Moons and Lt. Governor Kim Collum led a delegation of about eight plus guests from Mobile to Birmingham to see their fellow member, Keith Graham, installed as governor of the Alabama District.

Armand St. Raymond of Birmingham was installed as governor-elect and Ben Taylor of Montgomery as vice governor. Bob Palys was recognized for his service as governor in 2015-16.



**2016-17 Governor Keith Graham presents a RIF 25th anniversary J. Mercer Barnett Award to Sue Petrisin, the Kiwanis International president for 2015-16 who made two trips to Alabama this year. She is KI counselor to the Alabama District and spoke and installed officers at the District Convention in Birmingham.**

Reinstalled were Pat Manasco, district secretary, and Patrice Stewart, Kiwanis Courier newsletter editor.

Retiring lieutenant governors were thanked for their service; many will be serving a second year and were

installed along with some new faces (see list on Page 8).

Petrisin then shared some of her thoughts on Kiwanis. She said that every morning when she gets up, she tries to "recenter myself" on what it means to be a Kiwanian.

"It is going the extra mile without giving up," she said.

She told of visiting a village without phone, electricity or clean water, where children bathed in ditches where water buffalo were standing. "They had never seen crayons and couldn't write their names," she said.

"There are many in the world who are less fortunate than us," she said, and to put that in perspective, Petrisin shared stories of Kiwanis service.

In Malaysia, Kiwanis is known for centers that take care of Down Syndrome children. The first thing doctors ask parents of a Down Syndrome baby is "Do you know Kiwanis?"

In Taiwan, she visited a food store where a little extra money is collected to help Kiwanis buy medicine to give to those who need it.

In Cheyenne, Wyoming, she helped Kiwanians flip 30,000 pancakes and serve 10,000 people during Frontier

**(See CONVENTION, Page 29)**



Twenty-fifth anniversary RIF Barnett awards were presented at the District Convention luncheon in Birmingham. In the left photo, (from left) are Alabama Kiwanis Foundation President Russ Grimes; recipients Mike Roddy, Kristi Krieger, Mike Winstead and Sidney Lanier; and RIF director Cathy Gafford. In the right photo are



Melba and Bob Palys, who were recognized with RIF silver Barnett Awards for their year as Governor and First Lady of the Alabama District. Keith Graham (center), 2016-17 governor, made the presentation. "We are grateful for what Bob has done each and every week to lead our district," Graham said.



# Officer installation

*Birmingham, Aug. 6, 2016*



*Photos by Patrice Stewart*





Photos by Patrice Stewart



# Governor's Banquet

Birmingham, Aug. 6, 2016



## RIF gala (From Page 6)

Foundation.

"People ask me all the time how this program has lived so long and so successfully, and my answer is always the same: the fact that individual clubs see this program as their own ... with a local impact ... and the volunteers themselves."

### Volunteers recognized

She recognized volunteers, noting that many schedule time away from their jobs to read to children, while some planned their chemotherapy treatments around RIF readings. Groups such as Beta Sigma Phi, AO Emblem Club, sororities and other

Auburn University organizations, and of course, Circle K and Key Clubs help.

In the warehouse earlier that day, 170 K-Family members inventoried and put bookplates into 31,355 children's books to be distributed by RIF.

Gafford asked at the banquet, "Who knew 25 years ago that the RIF program would become such an important thread in the fabric of the life of the Alabama District of Kiwanis?"

Gafford cited the help of clubs and individuals: Past Governor Sidney Lanier and the late Jo Ann Lanier, who raised \$10,000 for RIF and started the warehouse showers for supplies; late Past Governor Harvey Watson, longtime chair of the RIF Advisory Committee; late Past Governor Truel Watts and Larry Moons for the Ride to Read fundraiser; Rich Bailey for Run to

Read; Karla Moons, an original RIF team captain who still helps; and Harriette Huggins, who helps track money.

Longtime team captains recognized with special RIF paperweights designed by Past Governor and RIF supporter Bob Palys include Paul England, Ethel White, Brandy Travers, Steve Jones, Mike Roddy, Russ Grimes and Mike Winstead.

Several silver anniversary RIF Barnett Awards were presented: Critt Snellgrove from his brother, Craig Snellgrove, and two from the Gaffords to local volunteers Shannon Duffy and Susan Anderson.

Gafford recognized her husband, Doug, with a silver anniversary RIF Barnett, too. Their daughter, Meg, gave a tribute to her mother and her years with RIF.



# District Convention

*Birmingham, Aug. 5-7, 2016*



Photos  
by  
Patrice  
Stewart





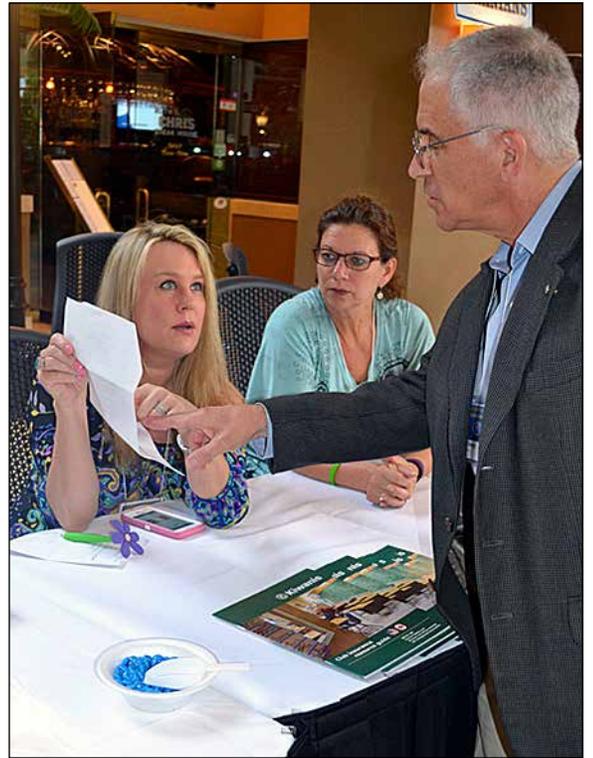
Photos by Patrice Stewart

# District Convention

*Birmingham*



Remember your Kiwanis district and international foundations for end-of-year gift-giving



# District Convention

*Birmingham*



*Photos by  
Patrice Stewart*



Watch for details on the Kiwanis International Convention in Paris, France, July 13-16, 2017



# District Convention

*Birmingham*



Photos by Patrice Stewart



Mark your calendar for the District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20, 2017

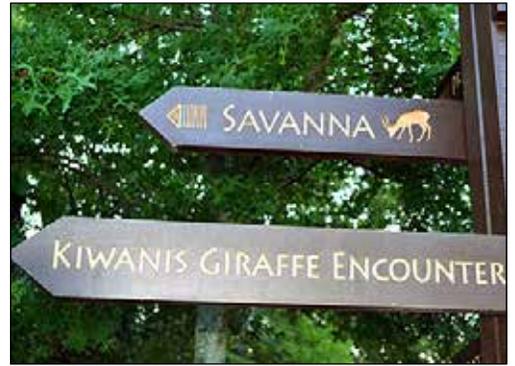


# District Convention

*Birmingham*

*Photos by Patrice Stewart and David Stewart*

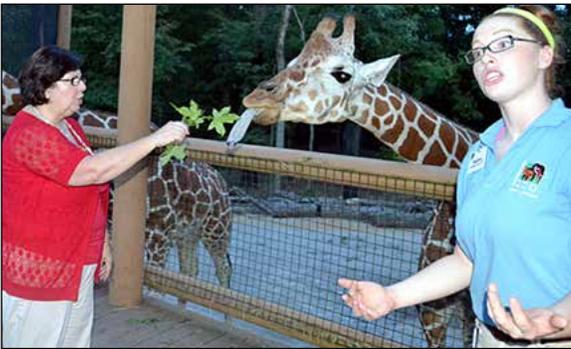




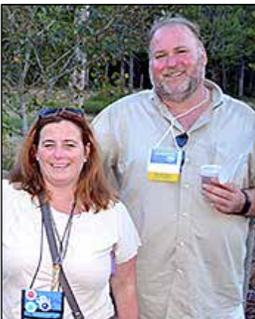
# It's a Zoo out there!



Joining Alabama Kiwanians in feeding the giraffes at the Kiwanis Giraffe Encounter at the Birmingham Zoo are two speakers from Kiwanis International: Joan Wilson, member services director, top left photo, and Sue Petrisin, 2015-16 KI president, in the next photo down. The visit, supper and ice cream at the zoo, held on Friday night of the District Convention, also helped mark the 25th anniversary of the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program.



*Photos by Patrice Stewart*





In Alabama, Kiwanis can be found helping kids in cities and towns all over the state — in parks, pavilions, ball fields, playgrounds and all kinds of programs. As part of the Alabama District Convention, members and families headed to the Birmingham Zoo to tour the Kiwanis Giraffe Encounter, funded by the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham. And back at the convention hotel, Kait-

lyn Palys decided that staying up late to go to all those meetings is not so bad if you can grab hold of the shiny badge of the featured speaker, Sue Petrisin, 2015-16 president of Kiwanis International. Kaitlyn and her twin brother James are the grandchildren of 2015-16 Governor Bob Palys and wife Melba and children of Kiwanian Andy Palys and wife Becky.



# #KidsNeedKiwanis

Kids Need Kiwanis is a new brand campaign from Kiwanis International. You can order materials for print ads, public service announcements for TV and radio, billboards, social media, websites, prospective member contact cards and more. As one brochure notes, "Kids are curious, lovable and hilarious." They are also wild, impatient and vulnerable and they need people to look out for them. Kiwanis is there for kids in every corner of the globe with 600,000 members who serve their communities through local clubs. Kids Need Kiwanis." Another line says, "Kids will be kids. And Kiwanis will be there." Check out the hashtag #KidsNeedKiwanis. See correct logos and ordering information at [kiwanis.org/brand](http://kiwanis.org/brand).





Two Jean Dean Courage Award winners were named for 2016: Daniel Cook, left, a Key Club president, and 2015-16 Kiwanis Governor Bob Palys, right, shown with presenter Cathy Gafford and his wife, Melba, center.



# Daniel Cook, Bob Palys receive '16 Jean Dean Courage Awards

Two Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Jean Dean Courage Awards were presented during the Alabama District Convention luncheon in Birmingham.

Cathy Dean Gafford, executive director of the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program, presented the honors named for her mother to two more whose lives exemplify courage: Daniel Cook, Key Club president at Mary G. Montgomery High School in Semmes, and Bob Palys of Cullman, 2015-16 governor of the Alabama Kiwanis District.

## Daniel Cook

Cook was described as the "spirit of his Key Club — the one who is always encouraging other members to do more than they think they can do" and as a person who "is never down ... always has a smile on his face and an idea on how to make things better."

Gafford said that is a testament to the courage of a young man who was diagnosed with Wilms tumor, a rare kidney cancer, at 18 months old. At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a kidney was removed and he endured six months of chemo which weakened his immune system and limited his participation in certain contact sports.

"Did he sit in his room and cry about what he couldn't do? No, he faced life with courage, concentrating on what he could do -- like playing baseball from age 4 to 14 and making the All-Stars every year," she said.

Since seventh grade he has participated in track and cross country. He is active in the school band and recently joined his school's tennis team. He is an active member or officer of NJHS, Jr. Civitan, Key Club, Running Club, Scholars Bowl, Leadership, Robotics and Student Council.

"He is involved in his community as well, participating every year in cancer walks and St. Jude fundraisers," said Gafford. He supports the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation because he has a cousin with the condition. Since eighth grade, he has helped find families for homeless animals.

"This brave young man works at giving back," she said. He volunteers with the Washington County Library to help children learn to love reading and also helps with community and children's events through the Semmes Chamber of Commerce.

"His parents deserve recognition for their strength and courage as well," said Gafford. "They encouraged and

supported him through a serious health issue and still managed to help him develop a can-do attitude and cooperative spirit that will help him all of his life."

He credits his parents with teaching him the benefits of being humble and showing compassion to others. "Even though I may think I am having a bad day or need something, someone else in the world is going through a worse and harder time than me," Cook said. "Someone like me can make a difference in their lives just by giving them a little comfort and support."

He believes that "instead of looking at others as competitors, look at them as your teammates. We're all just trying to live our lives to the fullest. If we show compassion and empathy to each other, we will in turn achieve this and make our world a better place."

## Bob Palys

Some people show courage while enduring a number of life's quieter challenges, Gafford noted. "If you don't closely observe them, you're not aware of their difficulties -- you just see all the good they do ... I really think that's how they want it," she

**(See COURAGE, Page 29)**



A new scholarship program was created to mark the 25th anniversary of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, and RIF/Alabama Kiwanis Foundation presented two \$500 scholarships during the Alabama District Convention in Birmingham. In the left photo, Key Club adviser Bob Palys, left, is shown with winner Javier Figueroa of Holly Pond High School, Alabama Kiwanis Foundation



treasurer Mike Winstead and Jean Dean RIF director Cathy Gafford. The right photo shows parents Lisa and Archie McNeill and winner Avery McNeill of Florala High School with Winstead and Gafford. Both young men are Key Club members, and both remember the books they received from RIF as preschoolers and finished as class valedictorians.

# Figueroa and McNeill win first 2 RIF scholarships in new program

A new scholarship was started in 2016 in honor of the 25th anniversary of Kiwanis service to children through Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, the signature service project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

Because the quality of the applicants was so high, two scholarships were awarded for 2016 at the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention in Birmingham.

Jean Dean RIF director Cathy Gafford and Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Treasurer Mike Winstead presented scholarships to Javier Figueroa of Holly Pond and Avery McNeill of Florala.

## Javier Figueroa

Javier Figueroa started his formal education in preschool at Cullman City Head Start; then in the spring he graduated No. 1 in his class at Holly Pond High School.

An active member of the Holly Pond Key Club, Figueroa was also a member of SGA, Future Business Leaders

of America, Beta Club, Math Team, Scholars Bowl and school journalism activities.

He was the Holly Pond representative to Youth Leadership Cullman County, Boys' State and the Youth Leadership Development Program. He planned to attend the University of Alabama in pre-med.

How did getting Kiwanis RIF books at home help him and his family?

"As the fourth child of a Mexican family, I rarely received anything new," Figueroa said. "Receiving brand new books in Head Start was one of the best feelings I had when I was young. I was overjoyed and I would read my books a lot, often to my family."

"Not only did my books help me read English, they helped my parents start on their journey of learning to speak English. The new books I received helped me discover my love for reading and even school. (These) books have helped me want to pursue an education after high school, unlike the rest of my family."

## Avery McNeill

He got his formal education off to a good start in preschool at Florala Head Start and last spring graduated No. 1 in his class at Florala High School.

McNeill was an active member of the Florala Key Club, as well as Student Government president and a member of Peer Helpers, Beta Club and the Fellowship of Christian Students.

He played high school football, basketball and baseball. He also served as a volunteer for Cancer Freeze, Christian Service Center and Camp Victory.

McNeill planned to attend the University of South Alabama and concentrate on a math or science curriculum.

He said getting Kiwanis Reading Is Fundamental books at home helped him "by giving (me) the key to learning. Having books in your own hands at an early age is a huge advantage to beginning an education."

**Key Leader  
Weekend  
April 21-23, 2017**

Do you know a teen with leadership potential? Will your Kiwanis club sponsor a teen for our leadership training weekend? Email [jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com), Alabama District Key Leader chair, for information, and watch for registration details. Visit [www.key-leader.org](http://www.key-leader.org).

**Recruit new members and volunteer to help with The Formula and I-Plan**

# Snellgrove receives a national award for work with Circle K

**By Lance Griffin**

News reporter, Dothan Eagle  
(Reprinted with permission)

There was the time Critt Snellgrove pulled a handful of University of Alabama Circle K members aside during a convention and challenged them in Nick Saban-like fashion.

"What are you going to do personally to make Circle K better in Alabama?" he asked.

There was the time that, on less than an hour's notice, Snellgrove was asked to deliver the keynote address at the Alabama District Convention when the scheduled speaker was delayed.

There was the time in 1978 when Auburn University's Circle K club chose to name its outstanding member award after Snellgrove because, who else could it have been?

He is the LeBron James and Mother Teresa of Circle K/Kiwanis service due to the quality of his service and longevity.

Consider that Critt Snellgrove has never missed a Circle K International Convention since 1965, except for the 1967 convention in Ottawa when Snellgrove was playing junior college baseball at Wallace College in Dothan. That's 51 conventions, from New Orleans to Ochos Rios, Jamaica.

And consider that Snellgrove has 45 years of perfect attendance at Kiwanis Club meetings.

The only surprising thing about the most recent convention in Toronto, when Snellgrove received the highest individual award given by Circle K International, is why it



**Kiwanian Critt Snellgrove of Dothan, who has been involved with Circle K since 1971, with his Circle of Service award presented in Toronto by Circle K International. (Photo by Jay Hare, the Dothan Eagle)**

took so long.

The award, a base with a glass circle and inscription, sits in a prominent place in Snellgrove's home. It is a testament to more than a half-century of service. Only five people in Alabama have ever received the award.

Since 1971, he has served primarily as an assistant administrator between Kiwanis -- a national civic service group with local clubs focused on serving children -- and Circle K, its college equivalent.

"It just gets in your blood," said Snellgrove, who is also a former Dothan city commissioner.

Snellgrove chartered the Wallace Circle K club during his one year there. Before and after, he was involved with Auburn University Circle K. After graduating from Auburn and immersing himself in Kiwanis, he worked closely with the Wallace club for about 30 years until the group folded. He has remained actively involved in serving other Circle K clubs throughout Alabama.

"There is not a single person better suited to receive the Circle of Service award," said Kyle Pierce, who was one of the handful of Circle K members from the University of Alabama that Snellgrove challenged many years ago.

"By the time those of us in that huddle graduated three years later, we had more than doubled the club," Pierce said.

When Kiwanis prepared to celebrate its centennial in 2015, Alabama officers learned they had scant documentation of significant contributors to its legacy. Snellgrove sat down with Jessica Bloom, then Alabama District Circle K Governor, to share 50 years of stories, facts and anecdotes.

**(See SNELLGROVE, Page 29)**

## Critt Snellgrove's history of service

### KEY CLUB

- Member of Dothan High School Key Club

### CIRCLE K

- 46 years on the Alabama Kiwanis Committee on Circle K
- Counseled 48 Alabama District governors
- Counseled 23 Kiwanis International officers from Alabama District
- Former Auburn University Circle K president
- Award for outstanding Auburn Circle K member named after Snellgrove
- Award for outstanding Alabama Kiwanis Club district named after Snellgrove

### KIWANIS

- 45 years of perfect Kiwanis attendance
- Past president of Dothan Kiwanis Club
- Past president of Alabama Kiwanis Foundation
- Served on Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Board for 25 years

# Thanks for memories — and your help!

## By Bob Palys

Immediate Past  
Alabama District Governor

My term as District Governor of the GREAT Alabama District ended Sept. 30. I would like to thank so many of you for making the 2015-2016 Kiwanis year an adventure that allowed me to meet lots of hard-working, dedicated volunteers and an opportunity to accomplish many great successes in service to our communities, the Alabama District and Kiwanis International.

When I began my year as governor, I had basically four goals: zero deficit in membership; increased education, support and service to Alabama's signature project, the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program; increased education, support and service to Children's Hospital of Alabama; and increased service to our communities, our district, and Kiwanis International. I wish that I could report success in all four goals; however, I cannot.

## Down 82 members for year

We ended 2014-2015 with 3,371 members; on Sept. 30, 2016, Kiwanis International records showed us with 3,289 members – a loss of 82 members. The deadly September Kiwanis club reconciliation of members showed that in our final month of the fiscal year, we lost 64 members, and that proved too much to overcome.

Immediate Past Governor Brian Rodgers was successful in opening a new club at Indian Springs with 16 charter members; we truly appreciate his endeavors.

During the 2015-2016 year, two clubs ceased operation: Calera and Magic City Young Professionals.

I am very proud of and thankful for the 30 Kiwanis clubs that did have positive growth. That's 35 percent of our clubs showing a membership increase: Anniston, Azalea City, Birmingham, Brewton, Capital City, Childersburg, Clanton, Decatur, Dothan, Fayette, Greater Tuscaloosa, Gulf Shores, Helena, Homewood-Mountain Brook, Hoover Metro, Inverness, Jasper, Mobile, Monroeville, Moody, Muscle Shoals, Oxford, Ozark,



**Bob and Melba Palys, shown at the Governor's Banquet at the District Convention, look back at the events of 2015-16, their year as Alabama Kiwanis Governor and First Lady.**

Rogersville, South Huntsville, Sylacauga, Tri-Cities/Floral, Valley, Vulcan and Wiregrass Golden K.

I am also proud and thankful for the many Kiwanis clubs who worked in hopes of increasing membership. I hope to work with Keith Graham, our district governor for 2016-17, to make his tenure a year of growth success.

## Special thanks from Melba Palys

Dear Alabama Kiwanians,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.

During Bob's year as governor, we were fortunate to get to visit many clubs across the Alabama District. We were welcomed at each visit with open arms and warm smiles. We enjoyed each encounter and felt blessed to get to know so many of you.

After I fell while in Canada for the International Convention, I was amazed how the wonderful Kiwanis family wrapped us in prayer and kind

## 25 years of Jean Dean RIF

Our 2015-16 year was the 25th anniversary year of the Jean Dean RIF program. I am happy to report increased donations and service, with plans made to remodel the RIF warehouse.

A gala appreciation dinner was held to thank volunteers who have supported RIF and raise additional funds for the largest RIF program in the United States. Through Jean Dean RIF during 2015-16, almost 24,000 young children received three books each to take home.

Thanks to all Kiwanians who provided financial support, read to students, and/or completed volunteer work in the warehouse. I also appreciate the many Kiwanis clubs that made contributions to RIF on my behalf during my visits as governor. Watch for details of Governor Graham's new initiative for RIF's future financial support.

## Helping Children's

It was a pleasure to achieve increased awareness and support of Children's of Alabama. More financial assistance and support was provided in 2015-2016 than the past three years combined. Numerous Kiwanis clubs sent checks to the Birmingham-based hospital.

A special thanks was earned by the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club with a donation of more than \$10,000 to Children's. Also, Kiwanians constructed and donated many new blankets to the hospital. The

**(See PALYS, Page 26)**

thoughts. We owe the Monroeville club an extra thank you for helping us get home with Pilots for Christ. The entire experience after the fall was challenging but through it all, we could feel your love and God's hand in turning a hardship into blessings.

We wish your Kiwanis clubs much success as you go about your efforts to make the world a better place, one child and one community at a time. If we can ever be of assistance, let us know.

God bless you all,  
Melba Palys

# Governor's helpers play important roles

By Bob Palys

Immediate Past Governor (2015-16)

I have participated in athletics for most of my 68 years. I played elementary school, high school and college level basketball, baseball, football, hockey and bowling, plus officiating.

While growing up, I was a huge fan of three coaches who I believe were the best in the history of their respective sports. My coaching heroes were Bear Bryant in football, John Wooden in basketball and Walt Alston in baseball. They all had three similar character traits: they were winners; they were able to get the most out of their players; and they were surrounded by the best of the best.

They did coach but they relied on the help and knowledge of their staffs. Especially in their latter years, these tremendous coaches stood tall while watching their helpers do an exceptional job. The assistants made the head coaches look good.

I compare my District Board to the philosophy used by arguably the finest coaches in the history of sports. I had two groups to work with. First, I was fortunate enough to have 13 dedicated Kiwanians willing to improve the Great Alabama Kiwanis District. These women and men did what they felt was necessary to strengthen an already very successful organization of service. I basically sat back and let them do what they knew best.

In the entire year, I told my board that there was only one thing they had to do -- promote the payment of dues. I made a few suggestions but never told any board member

they had to do this or that. They were excellent assistant coaches.

The second group I was working with were the most caring and dedicated adults in Alabama. Our Kiwanis club officers and members were not satisfied with doing as little as possible; they were truly committed to make a difference and make Alabama a better place in which to live.

An athletic team can have all superstars, but if they don't work together and listen to those around them, success will not be found.

I thank God for allowing me the opportunity to be a small voice in the greatest service organization. Thank you for your service and leadership and for making me look good. I will always treasure my opportunity to serve Alabama Kiwanis.

## 2015-2016 Distinguished Lt. Governors

The District Board created a document to reward lieutenant governors who did a distinguished job during 2015-16. The following lieutenant governors will be recognized as outstanding and receive a plaque and pin at the Alabama District Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference in Prattville on Feb. 24-25, 2017.

Brandy Travers  
Robert Brown  
Armand St. Raymond  
Jonathan Dick  
Kimberly Collum

Robert Lanoux  
Michael Fritz  
George McCleary  
Mark Kellerman

## 2015-2016 Distinguished Kiwanis Clubs

The 2015-2016 Alabama District Board decided to continue the program recognizing Distinguished Clubs and Distinguished Lieutenant Governors, though Kiwanis International will no longer handle the program and left it up to each district.

To recognize outstanding clubs and lieutenant governors, they decided to use 11 individual criteria: Membership Growth, New Club Growth, Leadership Education, Conference Attendance, Local Community Service, Global Community Service, Service Leadership Programs, Service Leadership Support, Key Leader Support, District Support, and Alabama Foundation Support.

To be eligible for "Distinguished" consideration, a Kiwanis club had to successfully achieve a minimum of eight of the 11 criteria. Clubs were motivated to apply for "Distinguished" certification and/or the division lieutenant governor could recommend providing recognition.

"I am very proud of the many

Alabama Kiwanis clubs who achieved above and beyond recognized Kiwanis activity," said Bob Palys, who served as district governor for 2015-16. "Thank you and congratulations for a job well done."

Each honored club will receive a Distinguished Kiwanis Plaque, and its president and secretary will receive pins for their "Distinguished" status. The awards will be presented at the Alabama District Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference in Prattville on Feb. 24-25, 2017.

The following Kiwanis Clubs have earned the recognition:

### 2015-2016 Distinguished Kiwanis Clubs

Huntsville  
Huntsville Golden K  
Metro Huntsville  
South Huntsville  
Cullman  
Decatur  
Florence  
Hartselle

Jasper  
Winston County  
Tuscaloosa  
Helena  
Homewood-Mountain Brook  
Hoover Metro  
Inverness  
Bessemer  
Birmingham  
Birmingham-East  
Vulcan  
Anniston  
Gadsden  
Wedowee  
Clanton  
Montgomery  
Dadeville  
Dothan  
Andalusia  
Monroeville  
Tri-Cities/Floral  
Bay Minette  
Daphne-Spanish Fort  
Fairhope-Eastern Shore  
Azalea City  
Gulf Shores  
Citronelle

# 7-year report card challenges clubs to reverse growth trend

As a former student and teacher, I can remember the anxiety of waiting to receive a report card. When I was a student, I was praying that I had made straight A's. Sometimes I was happy and at other times I was thinking: uh, oh!

When creating a report card, I hoped that I was objective and provided a grade that was earned. There were times my students were happy and other times when they begged for a change.

On Oct. 20, the Alabama Kiwanis District received a seven-year report card covering Kiwanis membership. I think that you will be surprised, and perhaps worried, at what our report says.

Please review the information provided by Kiwanis International. There is a little good but a lot of "uh, oh," too. Here are some key points on which to reflect:

- Only 12 of 87 Kiwanis clubs show growth over the past seven years (14 percent).

- 24 of 87 Kiwanis clubs show membership below charter status (28 percent)

- 16 of 87 Kiwanis clubs have decreased by at least 50 percent over seven years (18 percent).

- 48 of 87 Kiwanis clubs have decreased by at least 25 percent over seven years (55 percent).

- No division shows growth over the past seven years.

Alabama has achieved greatness over the past seven years; I can only wonder how much more could be done if we had more membership throughout each division.

I urge all Kiwanis clubs to work with Governor Keith Graham to make 2016-2017 the year when deficit growth ends.

—Bob Palys, Immediate Past Governor, 2015-16

**How much membership growth — or decline — has your club achieved in seven years? Find and compare your record on the next page.**

## Shoe drive continues, raising RIF funds

Thanks to all who have collected shoes for us during our SHOES-4BOOKS drive.

We are turning several hundred bags of gently used or new shoes into books for children, and the drive has been extended until Nov. 30.

Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental has already turned in 148 bags of 25 pairs of shoes each and received a

check for \$1,300.

We have another 50 pairs and are expecting more, so we hope to be turning in a total of 300 or more bags of 25 pairs each by the end of November.

It will be best if we receive all shoe donations by Nov. 30, but we probably can turn in bags by the week after that as well. Our shoes will eventually

make their way to other countries.

Here's an idea: Check with your local thrift stores. Some "reduce stock" about this time every year, creating a possibility for us.

Call RIF at 334-750-9974 or email [jeandeanrif@gmail.com](mailto:jeandeanrif@gmail.com) if you need pickup.

—Cathy Gafford,  
Jean Dean RIF

### Palys (From Page 24)

Alabama Kiwanis District should be very proud of its support of Children's and the thousands of children it serves from all over the state.

#### More service

My final goal was increased service. Last year I met with 55 Kiwanis clubs in Alabama, plus one club in Tennessee and one in New York. In speaking with Alabama Kiwanians, I was amazed at how much service was pro-

vided to local communities. It would be impossible to list all of the accomplishments. There is no doubt that almost every community in Alabama has somehow benefited from Kiwanis in Alabama. I got a good feeling about how much Alabama Kiwanis really cares.

Of the 85 Kiwanis clubs in Alabama, I would estimate that more than half provided additional support and community action. I have told Kiwanis International many times that although Alabama may not be as large as many other International Districts, our hearts, caring attitude, and actions

are second to none.

My dad absolutely loved and worshipped three American entertainers: Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Doris Day. He felt privileged to have met all three at USO shows during World War II. His favorite was Bob Hope, and we had watched every television show in which he appeared.

Bob Hope's trademark was the song "Thanks for the Memories," and I want to use his calling card to thank you all for the memories. Kiwanis 2015-2016 will be a year I will never forget — thank you!

# 7-year membership report

DIV.	KIWANIS CLUB	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	7 YEAR TREND	% CHANGE
1	Huntsville	89	83	86	66	58	56	53	50	-39	-44%
1	Huntsville West	19	22	21	18	17	19	24	23	4	21%
1	Huntsville Golden K	33	31	33	34	29	27	27	20	-13	-39%
1	Metro Huntsville	52	50	51	42	39	37	35	32	-20	-38%
1	Scottsboro	52	60	62	50	50	50	42	41	-11	-21%
1	South Huntsville	24	21	17	16	13	13	11	12	-12	-50%
2	Cullman	54	43	42	33	31	34	31	27	-27	-50%
2	Decatur	143	130	119	119	108	103	106	107	-36	-25%
2	Florence	66	70	60	58	65	68	64	62	-4	-6%
2	Hartselle	23	25	21	24	25	27	25	25	2	9%
2	Muscle Shoals	13	9	9	10	10	11	11	15	2	15%
2	Rogersville		27	34	31	29	28	28	29	2	7%
2	Russellville	32	21	21	21	15	16	10	10	-22	-69%
2	Sheffield	42	49	43	45	46	40	42	39	-3	-7%
2	Tuscumbia	33	32	32	31	26	27	30	29	-4	-12%
3	Fayette	22	19	19	18	18	16	16	17	-5	-23%
3	Hamilton	26	28	25	22	20	24	23	23	-3	-12%
3	Jasper	45	43	38	38	32	31	38	40	-5	-11%
3	Winfield	10	11	12	11	10	10	12	10	0	0%
3	Winston County		34	19	19	21	20	18	14	-20	-59%
4	Demopolis	35	32	27	27	22	25	22	21	-14	-40%
4	Greater Tuscaloosa	14	24	26	24	18	18	13	15	1	7%
4	Tuscaloosa	54	52	55	48	44	45	42	40	-14	-26%
5	Chelsea	36	31	32	36	30	25	32	26	-10	-28%
5	Columbiana	38	33	27	27	18	7	7	7	-31	-82%
5	Helena	21	29	30	34	31	23	25	27	6	29%
5	Homewood-Mountain Brook	78	68	51	50	51	48	46	52	-26	-33%
5	Hoover-Metro	30	33	33	33	31	29	31	34	4	13%
5	Indian Springs								16		
5	Inverness	35	20	16	17	15	16	14	16	-9	-36%
5	Vestavia-Hoover	33	32	32	28	25	21	19	18	-15	-45%
6	Bessemer	25	21	18	17	15	15	13	11	-14	-56%
6	Birmingham	559	554	551	554	528	531	531	542	-17	-3%
6	Birmingham-East	16	12	9	9	8	8	8	8	-8	-50%
6	Vulcan	30	28	20	22	21	18	22	27	-3	-10%
7	Anniston	98	100	99	101	86	84	85	87	-11	-11%
7	Cherokee County	11	16	17	16	16	10	10	10	-1	-9%
7	Fort Payne	45	47	46	48	46	43	39	38	-7	-16%
7	Gadsden	128	141	128	133	134	128	119	112	-16	-13%
7	Jacksonville	11	9	10	10	8	8	9	8	-3	-27%
7	Oxford	23	28	28	32	32	15	15	19	-4	-17%
8	Childersburg	30	21	25	24	14	8	21	26	-4	-13%
8	Moody	16	15	12	14	13	13	12	13	-3	-19%
8	Pell City	62	41	42	35	30	26	29	29	-33	-53%
8	Sylacauga	41	30	31	27	27	27	26	27	-14	-34%
8	Talladega	62	53	41	36	33	31	30	7	-55	-89%
8	Wadley	17	16	13	15	11	12	10	10	-7	-41%
8	Wedowee	24	21	20	20	18	18	17	11	-13	-54%
9	Capital City, Montgomery	77	65	58	50	48	46	40	43	-34	-44%
9	Clanton	39	31	26	35	31	26	23	29	-10	-26%
9	Good Morning Montgomery	25	30	28	30	25	21	23	16	-9	-36%
9	Millbrook-Coosada	51	39	34	31	27	27	22	22	-29	-57%
9	Montgomery	287	291	310	298	280	279	267	262	-25	-9%
9	Prattville	41	43	44	45	45	43	40	37	-4	-10%
10	Alexander City	45	33	32	34	28	29	27	25	-20	-44%
10	Auburn	122	113	107	111	97	99	98	89	-33	-27%
10	Dadeville	36	39	38	32	29	30	28	26	-10	-28%
10	Greater Auburn	10	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0%
10	Lee County, Auburn	23	19	20	20	12	12	12	10	-13	-57%
10	Opelika	131	133	123	118	117	114	118	113	-18	-14%
10	Tallassee	15	16	18	17	12	15	16	11	-4	-27%
10	Valley	30	27	23	30	27	23	22	23	-7	-23%
11	Abbeville	24	20	17	16	17	19	20	18	-6	-25%
11	Dothan	98	81	62	65	61	59	57	58	-40	-41%
11	Eufaula	40	35	36	36	24	20	20	20	-20	-50%
11	Headland	22	23	25	21	21	21	21	18	-4	-18%
11	Luverne	28	23	17	20	19	17	16	14	-14	-50%
11	Ozark	28	23	22	21	28	25	26	27	-1	-4%
11	Troy	14	19	19	14	11	17	17	17	3	21%
11	Wiregrass Golden K	17	16	14	14	14	13	9	10	-7	-41%
12	Andalusia	111	102	104	95	98	94	89	77	-34	-31%
12	Brewton	34	31	33	33	22	17	22	25	-9	-26%
12	Evergreen	22	17	20	20	21	23	26	24	2	9%
12	Greenville	55	57	51	51	49	43	47	44	-11	-20%
12	Jackson	19	24	21	19	17	18	18	15	-4	-21%
12	Monroeville	101	85	86	82	76	78	80	82	-19	-19%
12	Tri-Cities, Florala		23	22	16	13	14	8	13	-10	-43%
13	Bay Minette	18	22	13	13	16	11	13	13	-5	-28%
13	Daphne-Spanish Fort	26	34	35	26	31	31	32	32	6	23%
13	Fairhope and Eastern Shore	24	17	17	17	17	34	31	28	4	17%
13	Foley	23	20	14	14	14	11	12	12	-11	-48%
13	Gulf Shores	70	41	42	49	49	49	45	51	-19	-27%
14	Azalea City, Mobile	39	34	33	33	30	27	30	32	-7	-18%
14	Chickasaw	13	13	26	13	11	11	11	5	-8	-62%
14	Citronelle	23	20	21	15	19	15	14	13	-10	-43%
14	Downtown Monile				15	15	12	14	14	-1	-7%
14	Mobile	79	49	47	49	50	50	26	29	-50	-63%

Mark your calendar for the District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20, 2017



Gerald Waldrop, right, who served as governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis in 2006-07, is shown at the Alabama District Convention in Birmingham in August, just two months before his death. Pictured from left are Rev. Molly Clark, Past Governor Coke Clark, Callie Waldrop and Past Governor Gerald Waldrop.

# Past Governor Gerald Waldrop dies

Dr. Gerald Wayne Waldrop, who served as Alabama Kiwanis District governor in 2006-07, died Oct. 4, 2016, of heart failure due to histoplasmosis pneumonia. He was 74.

The Gadsden native, born Sept. 7, 1942, moved to Helena after retiring as a professor of history and political science. He was the 2001 charter president of the Kiwanis Club of Helena. He spearheaded the building of a Kiwanis "All Kids" Boundless Playground, serving children of all abilities.

The Rev. Molly Clark officiated at graveside services at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 8 at Evergreen Cemetery in Tuscaloosa, across the street from the stadium of his beloved Crimson Tide. The next day a celebration of life service was held at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Attalla with the Rev. Lyle Holland officiating. Family members, friends and Kiwanians participated in the services, with members of the Helena Kiwanis Club and Alabama District of Kiwanis serving as honorary pallbearers.

Waldrop, who graduated from Emma Sansom High School in 1960, earned his bachelor's degree from Jacksonville State University, where he was president of the Student Government Association. His graduate degrees were from the University of Alabama; he also attended the University of Mississippi and University of Minnesota. Troy University awarded him an LLD in 1985 for his contributions to public education in Alabama.

He started his teaching career at Jefferson State Community College and retired from Gadsden State Community College in 1996 after 30 years as a professor of history and political science. He also was an adjunct instructor for Jacksonville State and the University of Alabama in Gadsden.

He served as president of the Alabama Education Association in 1984-85. He also was a member of the National Education Association and the Shelby County

Education Retirees Association.

Waldrop was elected to the last at-large class of the Alabama House of Representatives (1970-74) representing Etowah County, District 11, Place 1. In 1974, he was elected to the first Single Member District class of the State Senate, District 10, representing Cherokee and Etowah Counties. Waldrop was one of the youngest to serve in either legislative chamber.

A member of Friendship Force of Birmingham for more than 20 years, he traveled to many countries as an ambassador and made many international friends.

He served in the United States Air Force Reserve during the Vietnam era and was a member of American Legion, Post 44, Gulf Shores.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville, where he and his wife met 52 years ago as students. He also had been a long-time member of First United Methodist Church of Attalla.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Callie Edgar

Waldrop; two daughters, Leigh Phillips and husband Kent of Helena, and Natasha Jackson and husband Wayne of Jacksonville; and five grandchildren, Hilary Phillips Hill (Stephen), Nashville, Tennessee, John Britton Phillips, U.S. Navy, Portsmouth, Virginia, and Callie Virginia Jackson, Jerry Wayne Jackson III and Charles Henry Jackson, all of Jacksonville, Alabama.

Other survivors include his sister, Gail Gamble and husband Charles of Tuscaloosa, and his mother-in-law, Thelma Edgar of Glencoe.

Memorial donations may be made to the Jacksonville State University Foundation, noting "Gerald Waldrop Memorial" and mailing to JSU Foundation, 700 Pelham Road, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

Southern Heritage Funeral Home of Pelham was in charge of arrangements.



*Gerald Waldrop served as Alabama Kiwanis District governor in 2006-07. He also was a professor of history and political science, president of the Alabama Education Association, a state senator and a state representative.*

## Courage (From Page 21)

said. That is the case with 2015-16 Governor Bob Palys.

The longtime Kiwanian with “a ready smile, a great sense of humor and a very big heart has for close to 30 years put thousands of hours into helping young people in Alabama become the best they can be through Key Club, but has also devoted thousands of hours as a Kiwanian, helping children and others in his community and across the state,” Gafford said.

What many don’t know about are “the many challenges he has faced over his lifetime and continues to face every day with perseverance and dignity.”

At 6 years old, he lost his mother. His dad and his older siblings formed a tight team to keep their family together, and he appreciated all that they did for him. He shows respect and love for his decorated World War II veteran father who gave up so much to help his family. Palys gives him the credit for a valuable lesson: “If you want to do something, never give up and always give it your best.”

Gafford told how he was hooked on

Southern climate after moving from upper New York state to St. Bernard College in Cullman to play basketball at age 19. The South became his home after college as he became a coach, married and started a family. In the next 20 years, he coached junior high and varsity basketball, was a sports official, taught classes, and started a small business, the Awards Palace.

In 1990 he became the adviser of the Holly Pond High School Key Club. He continues to handle that job plus more duties for Key Clubs around the state.

Palys and his wife, Melba, balanced all that with time for their two sons. The younger one, Matt, was paralyzed from the waist down and died just before his 18th birthday. “COURAGE is a big word always, but when applied to dealing with the loss of a child, the letters have to be capitalized,” said Gafford. “They did not allow their circumstances to embitter them but instead enjoyed every minute they had with their sons.” They love spending time with their older son, Andy, and his wife and twins born last year.

Through the years, Palys and his wife became more involved as adult

volunteers and supporters of Alabama Key Club and watched teens and clubs flourish. He was an honorary Kiwanian who joined the Kiwanis Club of Cullman in 1998, broadening the ways his family helped children across Alabama, Gafford said. He has served his Cullman club in every capacity, been a lieutenant governor and been governor for the Alabama District. He also has been recognized for his contributions to sports.

In recent years, there have been more challenges — two knee replacement surgeries, heart problems, cataracts, falls — all while supporting young people through Key Club and continuing Kiwanis efforts as well.

“He is active in what he believes in, regardless of personal or family challenges,” said Gafford. “He puts his time and money into all that he does — and especially the hugely successful fundraising efforts he has put forth for Children’s Hospital of Alabama — another way to help the children across Alabama.”

All that is why Palys was “honored for his ability to persevere in the face of life’s challenges ... and for his personal courage along life’s way.”

## Snellgrove (From Page 23)

“Any of these governors can tell you of times that Critt offered them an encouraging word and a shoulder to lean on; came to their aid when all else seemed to be crumbling; and, most importantly, pushed them to make Alabama and the world a better place,” Bloom wrote in her nominating letter for Snellgrove’s Circle of

Service award.

Snellgrove said it is difficult to highlight an hour of community service within the thousands he has logged, but he fondly remembers a Halloween trip to a local center for mentally challenged children many years ago.

“I’m not sure why it stands out to me, but everyone had such a good time,” he said. “People were laughing and smiling, and it was just something I’ll always remember.”

Snellgrove said he is troubled over

diminishing membership in most of the country’s service clubs. He was so committed to trying to keep the Wallace Circle K club afloat before it folded that he attempted to meet with club members in the few minutes available between classes.

“The thing you always hear now is that people are too busy to serve,” Snellgrove said. “I guess we all make choices about what’s important to us. I’ve always wanted to serve, and that’s what Circle K is all about.”

## Convention (From Page 11)

Days. The show includes a big cement mixer staged to look like the batter is pouring out of it.

“As Kiwanians, there is an opportunity for us to go to the next level and provide more service, but we can’t do that unless we get more members,” said Petrisin.

“Kids need Kiwanis, and the kids of our world are counting on you and I to make the world a better place for them. They need you and me and everyone else we can get to join us.”

## Dates to remember

**Feb. 24-25, 2017**

Mid-winter Conference in Prattville

**July 13-16, 2017**

Kiwanis International Convention in Paris

**Aug. 18-20, 2017**

Alabama District Convention in Auburn