



Alabama

Kiwanis Kourier

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22 pages

Bob Brown joins leadership

Hoover Metro member named Alabama District vice governor

By Patrice Stewart

Kourier editor

The Alabama District Board appointed a new vice governor and reviewed other business to get the 2017-18 Kiwanis year off to a good start during a Sept. 23 meeting in Opelika.

Robert "Bob" Brown, a past president of the Hoover Metro Kiwanis Club who has served as Division 5 lieutenant governor for the past two years, agreed to accept the appointment.

During the membership business session at the District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20, no candidate ran for election to the office of vice governor. That left it up to the board of officers and division lieutenant governors to appoint a qualified Kiwanian as the next vice governor, who is expected to move up to governor-elect and then governor.

Effective Oct. 1, Armand St. Raymond of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham took over the duties of Kiwanis governor from Keith Graham of Azalea City, Mobile. Ben

(See 2017-18 YEAR, Page 3)



Officers for 2017-18 are, from left, Vice Governor Bob Brown, Governor-elect Ben Taylor and Governor Armand St. Raymond.



Alabama's 2 international presidents

The Alabama District of Kiwanis claims the 2017-18 presidents of both Key Club International and Circle K International. At the District Convention in Auburn, Kiwanis 2016-17 Governor Keith Graham presented them with travel mugs. At left is Key Club International President William Sims of Homewood High School, and at right is Circle K International President Justin Crofoot of the University of Alabama.

Mid-winter Conference Feb. 23-24 in Prattville

Alabama Kiwanis District Secretary Pat Manasco has announced dates for the Mid-winter Conference and other events in 2017-18.

The Alabama District's Mid-winter Conference is planned for Feb. 23-24, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Prattville.

"Save those dates and join us in Prattville," said Manasco. Watch for registration information to be available soon in your email inbox and online at the district website: alabama.kiwanis.org.

Training for club presidents and secretaries will be held in Prattville, she said. Kiwanians can call the Marriott, 334-290-1235, to book rooms now at the Kiwanis conference rate.

She hopes to keep the Mid-winter Conference fee the same as last year: \$85 for one Kiwanian's registration, including Saturday breakfast and lunch, plus

(See PRATTVILLE, Page 3)

Save the dates: Gadsden will host the District Convention Aug. 10-12, 2018

Critical point in Kiwanis history

Let's intensify our efforts to build current membership and start clubs

Hello, Fellow Kiwanians,

I would first like to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Governor of the GREAT Alabama District for the 2017-18 Kiwanis year.

I am humbled and flattered that you elected me to this post. I hope during my year that I may live up to the expectations and performance that the GREAT Alabama District deserves.



From the Governor

By Armand St. Raymond

As our new International President Jim Rochford has informed us, we are at a critical point in our Kiwanis history. Our membership numbers are at their lowest point since 1953, and the opening of NEW clubs has been dwindling, along with membership in our EXISTING clubs. We currently stand at around 200,000 Kiwanis members worldwide.

I am looking forward to working with all of you and hope that you will call upon me at any time to visit, motivate and/or participate in a club project or membership event. I am literally just a phone call away: 205-970-0792.



Alabama District Governor Armand St. Raymond, second from right, is shown with other governors at a meeting about The Formula in Atlanta in October. He is also the Division 6 club coach for The Formula.

President Jim has called on his governors to raise the call for an INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP worldwide. Jim wants this to be achieved by STRENGTHENING membership in those clubs that may be faltering and by starting NEW CLUBS in areas where we may have some unsponsored (orphaned) Service Leadership Programs (SLPs).

Jim's theme this year is "EYE OF THE TIGER." With this theme, Jim is alluding to the "Rocky III" movie where Rocky is called upon by his trainer Apollo Creed to regain the

"Eye of the Tiger" desire back if he wants to be champion again. Jim wants ALL Kiwanians to exhibit that desire to make Kiwanis the No. 1 service organization in the world. By doing so, we help not only Kiwanis, but more importantly, the Children of the World.

President Jim wants ALL of us to be the BEST that we can be. We can be the best in the Alabama District by leaving our clubs, divisions and the District in better standing than they were the previous year.

(See GOVERNOR, Page 3)

Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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Keith Graham, Azalea City, Mobile (kgraham@gbdcpa.net) Past Governor

Pat Manasco, Homewood (dist_sec@alkiwanis.org) District Secretary

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alabama.kiwanis.org



Eye of the Tiger

Armand St. Raymond learned about the "Eye of the Tiger" at the Paris International Convention, where he met with Kendra Skidmore, right, and other "Tiger Team" members.

Governor (From Page 2)

Now, while my Lt. Governors and I have committed to achieving the goals that President Jim has set out for us, we cannot do it alone. During this new administrative year, I ask you to LEAD BY EXAMPLE and concentrate on improving the membership of your club.

If EVERY Kiwanian in the Alabama District were to invite one friend, neighbor, co-worker or church-going member to join us in our Kiwanis mission of "Serving the Children of the World," then we would not only achieve our goals but also demonstrate that not only do we have superior youth leadership (2017-18 Key Club International President William Sims and 2017-18 Circle K International President Justin Crofoot) but also show just how GREAT the Kiwanis Alabama District truly is.

Show your friends, neighbors and the State of Alabama just how much FUN you are having by being a Kiwanian and SMILE. If you aren't having fun being a Kiwanian, you aren't doing it correctly.

Remember to smile — attitude is everything! See the item at right by Charles Swindoll, whose family started the Holiday Inn hotel chain.

Thanks for all you do!

Prattville (From Page 1)

\$35 for the Friday night dinner.

"Clubs are encouraged to put Mid-winter dates on their calendars and send some members for fellowship, education and fun," Manasco said. Other dates:

- Key Club District Convention, Montgomery, March 8-11, 2018
- Key Leader Weekend at Jackson's Gap, April 20-22, 2018
- Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas, June 28-July 1, 2018
- Key Club and Circle K international conventions, Chicago, July 4-8, 2018
- Alabama District Convention in Gadsden, Aug. 10-12, 2018

How to reach the Alabama District office of Kiwanis International

U.S. mail (new address): P.O. Box 59426, Birmingham, AL 35259
Telephone: 205-945-1334

Email: District Secretary Pat Manasco, dist_sec@alkiwanis.org

2017-18 year (From Page 1)

Taylor of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery moved up from vice governor to governor-elect.

In other business, District Secretary Pat Manasco was reappointed and then got busy making changes directed by the board. She announced Nov. 3 that the district has a new mailing address: Alabama District Kiwanis, P.O. Box 59426, Birmingham, AL 35259.

The same Kiwanis office telephone number will still be used: 205-945-1334. If necessary, call Manasco on her cell phone, 251-296-9620.

The office fax line and 800 number have been discontinued. Kiwanians can continue emailing the district secretary at dist_sec@alkiwanis.org.

As a cost-cutting measure, the office formerly rented by Alabama Kiwanis on Bagby Drive in Birmingham has been vacated. Office equipment and supplies were moved to Manasco's residence and some items stored.

Attitude

by
Charles Swindoll

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes."

Courtesy of Kenyon & Eckhardt Companies



Governor Armand St. Raymond is emphasizing spirit and attitude while building clubs and membership. At the District Convention in Auburn, he posed with bald eagle "Spirit" and handler Amanda Sweeney.

District board holds fall meeting

By Patrice Stewart

Kourier editor

Alabama District Governor Armand St. Raymond talked with lieutenant governors from around the state about building new Kiwanis clubs, as well as adding members to and strengthening existing clubs, during their Sept. 23 meeting in Opelika.

The meeting was held the same day as K-Family Day at the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental warehouse, so some were able to attend both events.

St. Raymond said building a new Kiwanis club in

Gardendale is first on his agenda, and he has already met with prospective members for a new club there.

"I'm planning on boosting membership in the Alabama District this year, and we have been given the task of starting at least five new clubs by Kiwanis International President Jim Rochford," the governor said. Call or email St. Raymond if you have ideas about where clubs are needed.

He has a list of "orphan" Key clubs, Builders clubs and Circle K clubs and thinks those areas should be targeted

(See BOARD, Page 18)



Governor Armand St. Raymond and his board of lieutenant governors got down to business at their fall meeting in Opelika. Those attending, bottom photo, from left, were Mike Winstead, Glenda Selman, Robert Lanoux, Elise Hearn, Doc Overholt, St. Raymond, Steve Thomas, District Secretary Pat Manasco, Critt Snellgrove and Mary Prather.





About 110 northern region Alabama Aktion Club members gathered in Gadsden Oct. 21. They brought food items to present to Captain Dennis Hayes of the Salvation Army, who spoke to the group. That afternoon they rode the train and enjoyed other activities at Noccalula Falls.

Aktion Club conference includes service, speakers, Noccalula Falls

By Glenda Selman

Alabama Aktion Club Administrator

The 2017 Alabama Aktion Club northern region conference was held in Gadsden Oct. 21 at Twelfth Street Baptist Church with an afternoon social at Noccalula Falls.

More than 110 people were registered for the conference, which included clubs from Huntsville, Gadsden, Jasper, Moody and the Exceptional Foundation of Birmingham.

Attending from Tuscaloosa were Circle K District Administrator David Womack, Circle K member and District K-Family Chair Tana Early and Kiwanis Division 4 Lt. Gov. Robert Lanoux. Tuscaloosa has formed a new Aktion Club.

Captain Dennis Hayes of the Gadsden Salvation Army began the meeting with an inspirational talk, and the Aktion Clubs presented him with 100 nonperishable food items.

The clubs then broke into groups,

with members sharing ideas for projects, fundraisers and socials that they have tried over the year. This allows the clubs to learn about new projects and discuss how they can improve their impact on their communities.

They also discussed ideas for an Alabama District project that could be done in each club's town. Before lunch the clubs met together, heard the list of possible projects and voted on a district project with the overwhelming vote being for the military, so each club can choose an individual project that focuses on the military in their local area.

Aktion members next heard a talk from Chip Rowan of Beautiful Rainbow Catering located in the Gadsden Library (check it out on Facebook). Their mission is to utilize innovative and research-based strategies to enable adolescents and young adults with significant cognitive disabilities to acquire employment and

functional academic skills through organic gardening and sophisticated food production.

The dessert was made by members of the Gadsden Aktion Club who work at Beautiful Rainbow Catering.

After lunch everyone went to Noccalula Falls for a social. They rode the train, visited the petting zoo and the pioneer village, and simply relaxed while gazing at the water going over the falls.

It was a great day for Aktion Club members to see each other again, share what their clubs do to better their communities and have fun.

Check out our brand new website: aktionalabama.org. We will be sharing more information as we continue to develop the website.

If you are interested in starting an Aktion Club or would like more information, you can email me at coordinator@aktionalabama.org. We are where the real Aktion is!



K-Family Day for RIF

*Sept. 23
in Opelika*

Volunteers from Kiwanis Clubs, Circle K Clubs and Key Clubs from around the state showed up at the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental warehouse in Opelika Sept. 23 for the annual K-Family work day. RIF Executive Director Cathy Gafford estimated about 180 volunteers were there to help label and count books and get them ready to ship to Head Start centers and other locations where Kiwanians and volunteers read books and then give each child a book to take home. Workers enjoyed looking through some of the books — especially the Spanish-English versions.



Photos by Patrice Stewart

Clubs in Action



Kiwanians and sponsored youth representatives attended the Oct. 10 charter ceremony for a new K-Kids Club at Gulf Shores Elementary School. Division 13 Lt. Governor Taylor Means (in plaid shirt in three photos) presented the charter, officers were installed and children received certificates. District K-Kids Administrator Karla Moons (bottom right) of Mobile also addressed the group.

Gulf Shores Kiwanians help charter Baldwin County's first K-Kids Club

The Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores is proud to announce the chartering of a K-Kids Club at Gulf Shores Elementary School. This marks the first K-Kids Club for Division 13 (Baldwin County).

Led by Kiwanian and Gulf Shores Elementary K-Kids director Stacy Bathrick, the charter ceremony took place Oct. 10 at the school.

Kiwanis Division 13 Lt. Governor Taylor Means presented the charter to GSES Principal Amy Hiller.

Means said, "Our goal, which will be evident in each of these new inductees, is to foster a sense of community service and school pride, build character, and develop leaders here at Gulf Shores Elementary. We are excit-

ed to welcome and introduce the Gulf Shores Elementary K-Kids Club as the newest addition to our Kiwanis family."

The charter group included 35 elementary students. Bathrick initiated each new member and installed the club officers.

Club officers include: Haley Sims, president; Ana Bathrick, vice president; Claire Colvin, secretary; Amelia Eskew, treasurer; and Kaleigh Davis, sergeant at arms.

The program concluded with Karla Moons, director of K-Kids for the Alabama District of Kiwanis, congratulating the new club members and offering words of motivation and support.

The ceremony was well attended by many parents and Gulf Shores Kiwanis members (Stacy Bathrick, Steve Jones, Joe McCarron, David Lee and Taylor Means).

Also in attendance were Hannah Giannini, lieutenant governor for Key Club Division 19; Kaitlin Neese, president of the Gulf Shores High School Key Club; and Addison Stanford, Gulf Shores High Key Club senior class representative.

Bathrick gave special thanks to Cendy Hart, GSES assistant principal/faculty advisor; Amy Hiller, GSES principal; and Azalea City Kiwanians Karla Moons and Kim Collum for driving over from Mobile to assist with the ceremony.

Key Leader weekend is planned for April 20-22, 2018

Each Kiwanis club should plan to send some local students; for information, email jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com.

Clubs in Action

Florence holds 50th poster, essay contest

By Don Rohling

Publicity chair, Florence Kiwanis Club

This is the 50th year the Florence Kiwanis Club has sponsored a poster and essay contest in the public and private schools of Florence and Lauderdale County, according to Adam McDaniel, club president.

The theme of the contest traditionally involves patriotism, American history or community improvement and encourages young people to think about important subjects.

Both poster and essay winners will be invited to Kiwanis club lunch meetings to display their posters or read their essays and receive their awards.

For the 2017 poster contest, entries were to illustrate the theme "How I Learn about World News," with judging on originality, theme appropriateness and neatness.

The poster contest is open to students in first through sixth grades, with three divisions: first and second grades, third and fourth grades, and fifth and sixth grades. First-place winners in each division will receive cash prizes of

\$50, second place will receive \$40, third place will receive \$30 and fourth place will receive \$20.

The essay contest theme for 2017 is "The Role of the Press in America Today." Students in seventh through 12th grades are eligible to enter essays of 300 to 500 words.

There will be a division for each grade and up to three cash prizes given at each grade level, with first place receiving \$100, second place \$75 and third place \$50.

Entries were to be turned in by Nov. 28 to English teachers, school principals or the office of Billy Warren in the City-County Government Building. The club was planning to award prizes during its noon meetings at the Shoals Hotel and Conference Center on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8.

According to John Harris, All-American Week chairman for 2017, the prize money provided by the Florence Kiwanis Club is raised through its annual Pancake Day and gumball sales. Each year the club, which has about 70 members, raises and gives away more than \$45,000 to local groups.



Checks for local agencies

As one of her last official acts as president of the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville, Jodi Chambers (far left) presented checks Sept. 26 to representatives of organizations that benefited from the club's service funds in 2016-17. On hand to pick up checks were Kelsie Becton with Monroeville/Monroe County Area Chamber of Commerce; Dotsey Compton, Monroe Health Foundation; Pete Black Jr., Monroe County Education Foundation and Monroeville Main Street; Ricky Powell, Monroeville Area YMCA, Dixie Youth, and United Way; Alfred Carter, Monroeville Police Department; Rick Dorrance, local Boy Scouts; and Billy Black, Monroeville Fire and Rescue.



Monroeville Kiwanis 70th anniversary

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville observed its 70th anniversary recently with its only surviving charter member, George Thomas Jones, as a special guest. Jones was 24 years old in July 1947 when a group of Monroeville civic and business leaders formed the club at the urging of Greenville Kiwanis. There were no other civic clubs in town at the time. With about 85 members today, Kiwanis remains the largest local civic club. From left are new member Jamie Rowell, new member Brooke Hinote, longest continuously active member Roy Adams (who joined in 1949), charter member George Thomas Jones and new member Kelsie Becton.

Clubs in Action

Club news from Division 7

From chili and peanuts to bikes and flags, Division 7 has undertaken a busy year of service. Items on this page and the next feature the Anniston, Gadsden, Fort Payne and Oxford clubs. Lt. Governor Glenda Selman asked each of the clubs in her division to provide these service project reports for publication. The Kiwanis Kourier would like to publish similar information from other clubs and divisions; email your photos and activities to kiwaniskourier@gmail.com.



Working on the Anniston Kiwanis bike project are, from left, Reuben Johnson (in background), project co-chair Misty Howell, Buddy Eiland, and Brandon Freeman, immediate past president. Not shown are bike project chairman Robert Smith, club president Tim Wilson and others, including Patrick Wiggs of Wiggs Bike Shop, a project supporter.

Bicycles for Anniston

The Kiwanis Club of Anniston has been busy refurbishing 450 gently used bicycles to give to needy children.

Bill Wakefield of Martin's/Wakefield's clothing stores purchased the bikes and asked Kiwanis if they would take care of making repairs and providing the logistics for distributing them.

Several dedicated Anniston Kiwanians held a work day, thanks to

McCormick Refrigeration, which provided needed warehouse space for storing bikes and making repairs. Some bikes needed tires pumped up, brakes adjusted and handle bars straightened.

A few other bikes will need some parts and repairs beyond what the club can do. Wigg's Bike Shop graciously agreed to take those and replace tubes, broken pedals or missing training wheels.

Anniston members know that their

efforts will pay off soon with the smiling faces of the children who receive a new bike of their very own through this great service project for the club.

The Anniston club, whose president is Tim Wilson, is looking to the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden as a partner which will give Etowah County children an opportunity to share in the generosity of Bill Wakefield.

—Wayne Sisk, Past Governor
Kiwanis Club of Anniston
(Division 7)

Flags in Gadsden

Through its flag project, the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden displayed flags this fall from Labor Day through Sept. 11.

This program displays flags in the area seven different times during the year.

Key Club and Circle K members help with flag distribution and pickup.

Individuals and companies can have flags placed in their front yards for an annual fee of \$50. The Kiwanis Club provides the materials and labor for setup and removal of the flags.



As people travel down the streets of Gadsden and surrounding areas, they can view the American flags on the front lawns of many houses and commercial properties.

Gil Isbell is the current president of the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden.

—Lt. Governor Glenda Selman
Member of Kiwanis Club of Gadsden
(Division 7)

Huntsville starts early with holiday spirit

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....

Has your club made arrangements and held signup for holiday service projects?

By early October, the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville had completed signup and scheduling for 36 service hours of bell ringing and angel tree assistance, thanks to the organization of member Barbara Price.

Sixteen members planned to ring bells for the Salvation Army kettles at a Huntsville Wal-Mart on Dec. 2. Twenty signed up to help with angel tree duties on Dec. 7 at Parkway Place Mall.

Clubs in Action



At the Fort Payne Kiwanis booth at the chili cookoff are, from left, Dr. Chad Williamson, Cole Justice, Andrew Hairston, Sharon Jones, Pat Dunne, Scott Weatherly, Chuck Chitwood and Doug Crow.

Chili for Fort Payne

The Kiwanis Club of Fort Payne was one of five civic clubs participating in the Fort Payne Chili Cookoff.

The members enjoyed the camaraderie of working together on a community project while also competing against Rotary, Lions, Optimist and Altrusa club chili teams.

The Key Club helped the Kiwanis

Club serve chili to the many people attending the cookoff, which was held Oct. 13 before the football game at the local high school.

Although the Kiwanis team did not win the competition this year, its chili was considered one of the best by Alabama District Kiwanis Governor Armand St. Raymond, who visited from Birmingham.

The cost of the ticket was \$5, which

included chili from the various clubs, a sandwich, dessert and drink. It was a great time to visit with the various clubs in the area, taste the different chili recipes and enjoy seeing friends before the game.

The proceeds from this long-standing event go to the Fort Payne City Schools' Special Needs Program.

—*Scott Weatherly, president, Kiwanis Club of Fort Payne (Division 7)*

Peanuts in Oxford

The Kiwanis Club of Oxford has had its peanut sale in full swing this fall at OxfordFest and other locations.

The 2-pound bags of peanuts are sold for \$5.

For years, the club has set up a peanut sales booth at Oxford's annual OxfordFest, which is held the first Saturday of October. Oxford Kiwanians each had bags ready for purchase, and peanuts also could be purchased at the Oxford Civic Center, 401 McCullars Lane, and Dorsey's Super Market, 601 Main Street in Oxford.

All peanut proceeds help the Oxford club reach out to multiple areas of the community.

Each year it sponsors two children to attend the United Cerebral Palsy of East Alabama camp, and at Christmas the club provides for a family in need. Also, the club annually awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors



at Oxford High School.

To learn more about the peanut sale or for any other questions about the Oxford club, call Chris Fuller at 256-770-1533.

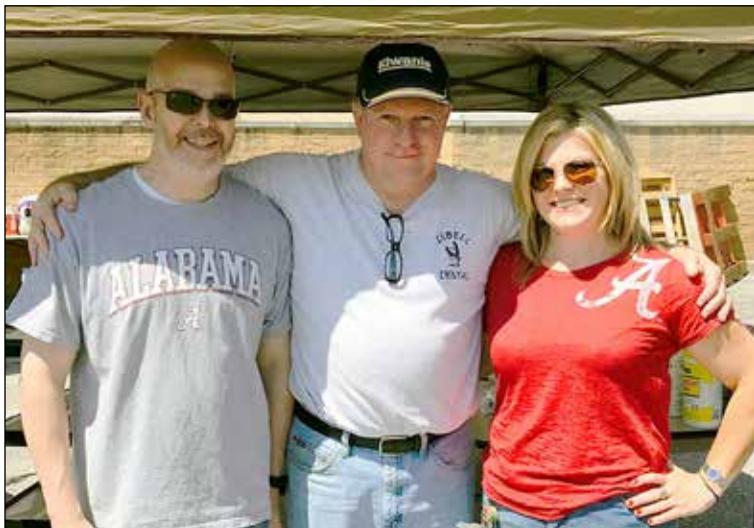
—*Chris Fuller, president, Kiwanis Club of Oxford (Division 7)*

Helena club helps Harvey's victims

The Helena Kiwanis Club conducted a relief drive Sept. 9 for victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas. With support from local Boy Scout Troop 2 and the Helena High School Husky football team, the club collected two trailers full of bottled water, non-perishable food, paper products, first aid supplies and pet food. Supplies were also contributed by the Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club, as well as a couple from Fulton, Maryland, who were headed to Houston when a truck broke down. Birmingham TV stations Channel 6 (Fox) and Channel 13 (NBC) sent camera crews to cover the Helena Kiwanis relief effort. Here, young volunteers break after loading bottled water into a truck.



Clubs in Action



Gadsden hurricane relief for Rosenberg, Texas

When the City of Gadsden partnered with Rosenberg, Texas, to provide supplies after Hurricane Harvey devastated the area, the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden volunteered to help, along with other city departments, agencies and civic groups. Volunteers collecting cleanup supplies and packaging them in buckets on Sept. 9 included Kiwanis President Gil Isbell, Trey Nolen, Natalie Fleming, Will Mackey, Christy Turner Richards and Will Mackey. Trucks were filled with all types of supplies and delivered to the hard-hit city along the Brazos River.



Gadsden marks Jim Martin's 99th birthday

The Kiwanis Club of Gadsden held a day of celebration for Jim Martin and helped him mark his 99th birthday, which was Sept. 1.

The former congressman and Alabama conservation commissioner died Oct. 29, 2017, two months after the birthday tribute planned by the Kiwanis club that he served as president in 1956. He also was a former Kiwanis lieutenant governor.

He had returned to Gadsden following service in World War II, where he helped open the gate of the first concentration camp liberated by American forces at Ohrdruf, Germany.

He became a local businessman and was encouraged to run for office, and at his death he was the oldest former congressman in the country.

In 1964, he was elected to the U.S.



Jim Martin served in Congress and as Alabama commissioner of conservation, establishing the "Forever Wild" program.

House of Representatives. In 1986, he was appointed as Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources.

He was also remembered for establishing the "Forever Wild" program, and a local wildlife park bears his name. Kiwanians attending the District Convention in Gadsden Aug.

10-12, 2018, may want to take time for some relaxation in that green space.

For the 99th birthday, "Many people came to share how Jim impacted their lives through his faith, his wisdom and his natural affinity for his fellow man," said a club member. There was even an original song, "Forever Wild" (Jim's Song), written by Jerry Ware, a past lieutenant governor.

His wife, Pat, a former Miss Alabama, told club members how Kiwanis brought them together.

Sympathy goes to the family of James Douglas "Jim" Martin, as well as the family of Betty Jo Watkins, president of the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club in 2012-13. Her club honored her with a Walter Zeller Award for her service. She died Oct. 13, 2017, in Tuscaloosa at age 75.

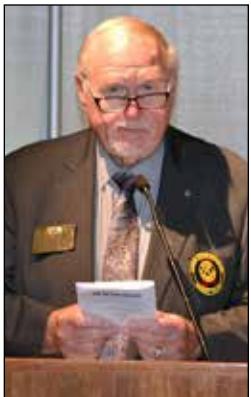
Governor's Banquet: installations, gifts



Kiwanis Officers for 2017-18 were installed by Kiwanis International Trustee Fred Dietze of Peoria, Illinois, during the Saturday evening Governor's Banquet held during the Alabama District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20. Clockwise from top left: District Secretary Pat Manasco of the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook and Armand St. Raymond of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham listen as Dietze talks about the duties of governor before installing St. Raymond as Governor-designate; newly installed Governor-elect Ben Taylor of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery and wife, Hannah, are shown with Governor Armand St. Raymond, Immediate Past First Lady Dee Dee Graham and Immediate Past Governor Keith Graham of the Azalea City, Mobile, club; Dietze installs Taylor as Hannah watches; St. Raymond gives a plaque to Keith Graham in recognition of his year of service as 2016-17 governor; and St. Raymond presents roses and a gift to Dee Dee Graham. No vice governor candidate was presented for nomination and election at the business session that morning. At the fall board meeting on Sept. 23, two-term lieutenant governor Bob Brown, a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Hoover Metro, was approved as vice governor for 2017-18.



Lieutenant governors from divisions around the state were installed during the Saturday evening banquet at the convention in Auburn. Those shown include, from left: Doc Overholt, Huntsville Golden K, Division 1; Dwight James, Tuscaloosa, Division 2; Steve Thomas, Jasper, Division 3; Robert Lanoux, Tuscaloosa, Division 4; Elise Hearn, Chelsea, Division 5; Mary Prather, Auburn, Division 10; Critt Snellgrove, Dothan, Division 11; Taylor Means, Gulf Shores, Division 13; and Waynetta Black, Citronelle, Division 14. Not pictured are Carl E. Johnson Sr., Birmingham East, Division 6; Glenda Selman, Gadsden, Division 7; Mike Winstead, Good Morning Montgomery, Division 9; and Ricky Powell, Monroeville, Division 12.



Speakers addressed many issues at the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention in Auburn. At upper left, John Shertzer, chief programs officer with Kiwanis International, who led workshops and gave the luncheon address, is shown with Governor-elect Ben Taylor, KI Southeast area director Rhonda Vrell and Past Governor Brian Rodgers. Other photos show Glenda Selman talking about Aktion Club while Phil Selman, front, awaits his turn to cover Builders Club; Division 1 Lt. Governor Doc Overholt, who led Sunday's memorial time; and Karla Moons, who gave K-Kids tips. Convention chairman Dave Moore presented flowers to Mary Prather for handling convention details.

Quotes from the District Convention

"Three gifts Kiwanians are giving to others are the gift of relationships, the gift of values and the gift of service leadership. ... Our goal often is a better world for all who follow, and we work toward that through service. We can get there faster with a vehicle — that's a club — so we're taking one big road trip with our friends, using the vehicle of service. Is your vehicle tuned up and ready for this road trip?"

*—John Shertzer, Indianapolis, Indiana
Chief Programs Officer, Kiwanis International*



"Clearly, Alabama Kiwanis is doing something right with their Service Leadership Programs, or William and I wouldn't be here today."

*—Justin Crofoot, University of Alabama
2017-18 President, Circle K International*



"The amazing support of Alabama Kiwanians means so much to me. ... I leave you with a challenge: reach out to your sponsored Key Clubs, and think of what we could do if we all work together."

*—William Sims, Homewood High School
2017-18 President,
Key Club International*



"You have a fantastic district in Alabama. ... We are all in this together, and we will rebuild the village together." (Good communication between the district, divisions and clubs is essential.)

*—Fred Dietze, Peoria, Illinois
Kiwanis International Board of
Trustees*



"We have a problem. Many Key Clubs do not know which Kiwanis Club sponsors them, because they never see them."

*—Paul Sexton, Alabama District
Key Club Administrator*



"Kiwanis International President Jim Rochford wants us to open new clubs, especially in areas where we have unsponsored Service Leadership Programs. ... This (reversing the downward membership numbers) is not a job Jim and I can do by ourselves. We are asking every Kiwanian to think of and bring in a new member and make this the best year possible."

*—Armand St. Raymond, Birmingham
2017-18 Governor, Alabama District*





Raptors making appearances during the Auburn program include, clockwise from top left: a turkey vulture, a red-tailed hawk, a barn owl, a baby Eastern screech owl and a great horned owl, shown by handlers Jordan Broadhead and Amanda Sweeney.

Birds of a feather attend convention

Seven birds of prey made appearances at the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention in Auburn, demonstrating their valuable community outreach duties while enthraling Kiwanians and guests.

The educational Friday night program was presented by the Southeastern Raptor Center, a division of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Stars included a baby Eastern screech owl, barn owl, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, hooded falcon, turkey vulture and

bald eagle.

After the demonstration, the bald eagle named "Spirit" posed for photos with Kiwanians. Spirit's other job is flying around the stadium during many Auburn home football games.

Accompanying the birds to the Auburn Hotel and Conference Center was Rhett Laporte, one of two trainers for the birds, who explained characteristics of each type.

He is a 2015 Auburn graduate in wildlife ecology who told how the birds arrived at the center with a vari-

ety of broken beaks, injured wings and other issues. The center treats and releases healed birds whenever possible, but those that cannot survive in the wild are often trained for educational programs for schools and other groups.

Laporte was assisted by two AU student volunteers who showed the birds: Amanda Sweeney, a conservation and biodiversity major, and Jordan Broadhead, a wildlife sciences major.

—Patrice Stewart, Courier editor



"Spirit," the bald eagle who handles many Auburn public relations duties including football stadium flyovers, posed for photos with Kiwanians, assisted by handler Amanda Sweeney. Getting their photos made with Spirit after the Aug. 18 dinner and program are, from left, Citronelle Kiwanian David Barreras, Past Division 10 Lt. Governor Gerald Knight, and Auburn District Convention Chairman Dave Moore.

Chester Feagin of Azalea City club receives Jean Dean Courage Award

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Jean Dean Courage Award for 2017 went to 92-year-old Chester Feagin, the charter president of the Azalea City Kiwanis Club in Mobile who has 35 years of perfect attendance.

The honor is announced each year at the District Convention by Cathy Dean Gafford, daughter of the late Jean Torbert Dean and Kiwanis Past Governor Joe Dean. Each year she and her family recognize someone for their "courage along life's way" in memory of her mother. Gafford is executive director of the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program, also developed in memory of her mother.

Feagin was unable to attend the presentation during the Aug. 19 luncheon at the convention in Auburn, but Gafford said she was proud to announce the honor for "one who has exemplified courage for a lifetime — a cherished member of the Azalea City Kiwanis Club and faithful supporter of the Alabama Kiwanis Family."

Feagin was presented the plaque two weeks later during a meeting of his home club by fellow member and Past Governor Karla Moons, who shared Gafford's convention remarks.

Gafford told the District Convention attendees that courage comes in many different forms. Some people, like her mother, who dealt with asthma all her life and had both a heart attack and a stroke before she was 40, face obvious severe physical handicaps throughout life, while others endure quieter challenges, such as heart problems or bodies that don't cooperate when it is time to move.

"The people I have known in this group seem to gravitate toward service," Gafford said. "If you don't really observe them, you're not aware of their difficulties, you just see all the good they do, and I really think that's how they want it."

Feagin falls into that category, she noted, "and exemplifies the spirit of this award. He has exhibited courage



Chester Feagin, 92, receives the Jean Dean Courage Award from Karla Moons during a meeting of their Azalea City Kiwanis Club in Mobile. Earlier, Cathy Gafford announced the honor and told about Feagin at the District Convention in Auburn.

along life's way, and he has continued to serve in his community." He has been active in business, in Kiwanis and in professional organizations, and he served his country in the military.

Feagin volunteered to serve during World War II while still in high school, first in the Navy and later in the Army. "He was sitting on a pile of ammo on his ship in the Bay of Japan when the atomic bombs were dropped," Gafford said.

He later settled in Mobile, earned his high school diploma and went on to become a master salesman and then a public accountant.

"I'm sure he has the problems that most 92-year-olds have: hearing difficulty, heart trouble, weak legs, trouble with balance, etc.," she said. "What makes him different is that he is

not consumed by those problems. Instead, he is always looking to help others. He's not complaining about his challenges — he is helping others face theirs."

Gafford said he sends birthday cakes and pies to members of his Kiwanis club and other friends, as well as notes of encouragement when needed. "Advice for new members or officers is always given kindly and with love.

"He is indeed a unique individual — a regular speaker on the sponsored youth circuit in his home county who always makes several cakes when the Key Club has a Cake Walk fundraiser."

Feagin usually attends the District Convention, and last year he was in Birmingham for his 35th District Convention in a row, although his adored wife of more than 60 years was in poor health at that time. Gafford noted that he has since lost the wife so dear to him and no doubt misses her terribly, "but he goes forward every day, reaching out a hand to someone else and sending encouraging notes from his computer."



Chester Feagin



Dad Marcus Wilson, sisters Janae and Janell Wilson and mom Melanie Wilson were at the District Convention luncheon where Justin Wilson was presented the 2017 RIF Scholarship by Mike Winstead, right, representing the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

Justin Wilson gets RIF Scholarship

Justin Wilson of Montgomery was presented the 2017 Jean Dean RIF Scholarship during the Alabama District Convention Interclub Luncheon on Aug. 19 in Auburn.

Wilson graduated with an "A" average at Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School in Montgomery in May.

He expected to use his Reading Is Fundamental scholarship from the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation to major in computer engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

His formal learning started with the

Jeff Davis Head Start.

He was appreciative of the RIF books he got to take home, saying they were the foundation for his love for reading.

He hopes Kiwanians and friends of Kiwanis continue giving books to preschoolers attending Head Start.

In high school, Wilson participated in Science Olympiad, VEX Robotics, Skills USA, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America. He was a Brewbaker Tech Robotics Club field setter, a Mont-

gomery Chiefs youth football assistant and a concession worker for the Biscuits and Metro Baseball League.

Support RIF Future Fund

When making year-end donations, remember the RIF Future Fund. Past Governor Keith Graham said it has collected \$32,000 so far, with another \$40,000 pledged.

Mark donations for the RIF Future Fund and mail to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 849, Opelika, AL 36803-0849.



Convention honors

At the District Convention, Past Lt. Governor Paul England, center in left photo, of Monroeville was given a Jean Dean RIF 25th Anniversary Barnett Award by executive director Cathy Gafford for his help with Reading Is Fundamental. Russ Grimes, left, represented the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. In the center photo, Glenn Harger, left, of Azalea City, Mobile, home club of 2016-17 Governor Keith Graham, stepped up to make a \$1,000

donation from his club to the RIF Future Fund in honor of Graham. "He loves RIF, he's always there to read, always there to help, and he created the RIF Future Fund," said Harger. At right, Graham presents a Kiwanis International recognition certificate to Doc Overholt of the Huntsville Golden K Club for its entry in the Signature Project Contest, "The Oldest Paperboys in the U.S." The club's fundraiser is a historic Huntsville paper.

The more, the merrier at meetings



How many people from your club came to the Alabama District Convention in Auburn? These four clubs brought at least an Interclub of four members, and most of them brought extra members and guests. Shown, clockwise from top left, are the Kiwanis clubs of Homewood-Mountain

Brook, Monroeville, Indian Springs Village and Gadsden. As registration draws near for the Feb. 23-24, 2018, Mid-winter Conference in Prattville, plan for new members to attend the education sessions and learn from new Kiwanis friends, as well as long-time members and officers.



Circle K, Key Club representatives at Kiwanis convention

It's good to have young people attending Kiwanis conventions, and the Alabama District always has some members of its sponsored service leadership groups attending — including the international presidents of Key Club and Circle K this year (see Page 1). Also in Auburn for the Kiwanis District Convention were, top photo, Aaron Fox, from left, lieutenant governor of the Champion Division (Tuscaloosa-Birmingham) of Circle K, who was representing Circle K Governor Cody Carroll

for the weekend and is shown with Circle K assistant administrator Kyle Pearce, administrator David Womack and Circle K International president Justin Crofoot from the University of Alabama. In the bottom photo, shown in Auburn with Kiwanis International Trustee Fred Dietze, are Yousra Omer, Key Club Division 12 lieutenant governor, and Jen Spell, Alabama District Key Club Governor.



Memorial resolutions

'Distinguished' plaque for Decatur

Patrick Johnson, right, 2015-16 president of the Decatur club, and Leissa Chittam, left, club secretary then and first vice president now, received the Distinguished Club Award plaque for Decatur when Melba Palys brought it to a club meeting.

During the District Convention, a memorial service was held for all Kiwanians who died during the past year, and special recognition was paid to the three past governors. The Alabama District approved memorial resolutions citing the service and leadership of Bob Palys, Joe Dean and Gerald Waldrop; Melba Palys, left, and Cathy Dean Gafford were present to receive them. A tribute page, "Three Kiwanians who made a difference," also was passed out at the convention.

Melba Palys continues late governor's award presentations and fundraising

Melba Palys, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Cullman, is continuing to carry out plans made by her husband, Past Governor Bob Palys, 68, who died March 25, 2017, just six months after his term ended.

He had a Distinguished Club Award plaque for the Kiwanis Club of Decatur, one of 35 clubs he honored at the Mid-winter Conference in February for achieving at least eight of 11 goals during his 2015-16 year as governor.

He had wanted to take it to Decatur and present it himself at a meeting of the club in Division 2, which he earlier served as lieutenant governor.

But it was Melba Palys who attended a meeting of the Decatur club to present the plaque and recognize the achievements of Patrick Johnson, who served as club presi-

dent during Bob's year as Alabama District Kiwanis governor. Serving as club secretary then was Leissa Chittam, who is first vice president now.

The Distinguished Club Award plaques commended clubs for "outstanding, dedicated service to your community, the Alabama District, and Kiwanis International."

Another project Melba helped see to completion was the raffle of a racket autographed by tennis star John McEnroe.

It was donated by Bob Palys with the goal of raising \$2,000 for Children's Hospital of Alabama, his favorite charity. Melba pulled the winning ticket of David LeCompte during the District Convention in Auburn and said more than \$2,000 was raised.

Melba also serves on the Key Club Adult Advisory Board.

Board (From Page 4)

for new Kiwanis clubs.

Those sponsored youth clubs "are our biggest strength for Kiwanis," and we need to take care of them in order to grow, St. Raymond said.

He told his lieutenant governors to ask the clubs in their divisions what the district can help them with. "Find out what's really going on around the district, so we won't be caught off guard by developments during the

year," he said.

As governor, St. Raymond plans to visit clubs and divisions around the state, and he especially would like to attend events for prospective members.

In his address following the officer installation during the District Convention in Auburn, St. Raymond said that Kiwanis is at a crossroads, with the lowest membership in years.

He explained that KI President Rochford has chosen the "The Eye of the Tiger" as his theme for 2017-18. That refers to Kiwanis resuming its

position as a champion again. To kick off his year, Rochford hosted an event focused on club-building in a Chicago suburb, and Alabama Lt. Governor Elise Hearn of Chelsea was among those invited.

"Jim wants every Kiwanian to share that desire to go out and do the best they can," St. Raymond said. "This is not a job Jim and I can do by ourselves. We are asking every Kiwanian to think of and bring in a new member and make this the best year possible as far as membership."



Alabama District Convention

Auburn, Aug. 18-20, 2017

Photos by Patrice Stewart



Plan for your club to sponsor area teens for Key Leader Weekend April 20-22, 2018



District Convention, Auburn

Photos by Patrice Stewart

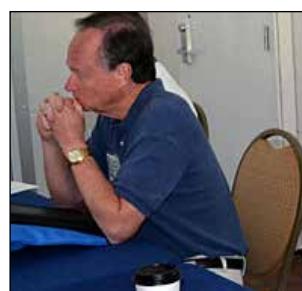


Have questions? Call Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco at 205-945-1334



District Convention in Auburn

Photos by Patrice Stewart





District Convention, Auburn

Photos by Patrice Stewart



Thanks for support during 2016-17

About two years ago I met a group of men and ladies from around the world.

We took the name "Dream Team 102" and accepted the charge and challenge to Energize the Dream that every child is Happy, Healthy, Safe and Loved.

To 2016-17 Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson and my fellow district governors, know it was a joy and honor to meet each of you and come to call you friends.

To the Great Alabama District of Kiwanis, I thank you for the honor and privilege you allowed me in being your governor.

I had many great experiences as I saw firsthand how you seek to improve the lives of children one child and one community at a time.

And to Azalea City Kiwanis, this time began 32 years ago when you chartered the Key Club at Mary G. Montgomery High School where I was a student.

Years later you asked me to serve as your Kiwanis Club president and continued by supporting and encouraging me to become governor of our district.

I thank the many governors of the Alabama District that came before me and pray the best for our 2017-18 Governor Armand St. Raymond. Enjoy your year!

Above all, thank you to my wife, Dee Dee Williams Graham, for joining me along this journey.

—Keith Graham
2016-17 Alabama District Governor



Past Governor

By Keith Graham



Keith Graham has covered many miles to attend Kiwanis functions since his August 2016 installation in Birmingham as 2016-17 District Governor. Shown with him are wife Dee Dee and daughter Emily.

Save the dates: Gadsden will host the District Convention Aug. 10-12, 2018