



Alabama

Kiwanis Kourier

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96th convention in Mobile

Historic Battle House Hotel site of Aug. 1-3 meeting

By Past Governor Karla Moons
Chair, 2014 District Convention in Mobile

If you had someone in your family turning 100, what would you do? Meet at my house for a glass of sweet tea and sit on the porch to plan a celebration!

That is what we'll be doing at the 96th Alabama District Convention in Mobile Aug. 1-3. Azalea City Kiwanis is the host club.

You're invited to join us at the Battle House Hotel in downtown Mobile. It's the "Peabody" of Mobile; we don't have ducks, but the ameni-

ties of this hotel are many. You will enjoy the historic lobby decorated in Art Deco style, the full-service spa (for a 10-percent discount, just tell them you are with Kiwanis) and a rooftop that has a zero-entry pool, tennis courts and a driving range facing the Mobile River.

Now that we have a great place for planning our 100th birthday, what are some of the things we need to do while we have everyone together? First, let's look at who we are. We are the

(See MOBILE, Page 3)



Get your name in this hat! Mobile convention details, Pages 3-5.

KI president visits Alabama clubs

By Patrice Stewart
Editor, Kiwanis Kourier

Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser of Austria and wife, Christiana, visited several clubs on a recent whirlwind trip to Alabama.

Gasser talked about his theme, "We build bridges for children into the future," while talking to members of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville March 24, Kiwanis Club of Birmingham March 25 at lunch and Kiwanis Club of Montgomery that evening, and Kiwanis Club of Gadsden at noon March 26.

They were escorted around the state by Alabama District Governor Bill Phillips and wife, Jean, of Pell City, with assistance from Kiwanians in each location. The men had a lot in common since both have engineering backgrounds.

In Huntsville, Kiwanians planned a full day of sightseeing for the Gassers, while highlighting many Kiwanis-funded sites and projects. They met Mayor Tommy Battle at his office, drove through the Twickenham Historic District, stopped at quaint



Alabama District Governor Bill Phillips and wife Jean, left, showed Alabama sights to Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser and wife Christiana, of Austria. (Photo by Patrice Stewart from Huntsville visit)

1879 Harrison Brothers Hardware downtown and lunched at the nearby Commerce Kitchen.

The afternoon included a briefing on the Little Learners program at the Huntsville library and visits to other Kiwanis-funded projects such as the Miracle League ball field, Kiwanis

Metroplex ball fields and "Everybody Can Play" playground. They also toured Research Park and visited the Space & Rocket Center.

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville invited other clubs in Division 1 to

(See KI PRESIDENT, Page 8)

Keep up with progress of the KI worldwide service project at www.TheEliminateProject.org

Not growing? Do something new

Alabama has been honored to receive an official visit from our Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser and his wife, Christiana.

They arrived in Birmingham the afternoon of March 23 and left Thursday morning, March 27, giving us

three full days to spend with them while showing them some of our Alabama District.

We crammed visits to four of our Kiwanis clubs into those three days during visits to Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery and Gadsden.

Much could be written about their visit or about Kiwanis in their hometown of Spittal An Der Drau, Austria, but I will instead touch on

several important things Gunter mentioned in his talks around our district.

Gunter has traveled the world and has a world view of Kiwanis. He is dedicated to growing Kiwanis worldwide and strengthening clubs.

Because of his love for and dedication to Kiwanis he has initiated the five-year growth program we are implementing now.

He used his visit to promote Kiwanis growth all over the world



From the Governor

By William L. Phillips Jr.



Alabama District leaders are having a busy year, whether they have been learning about new Kiwanis initiatives in Indianapolis and Atlanta, hosting the Kiwanis International president's visit, or supporting Service Leadership Programs. From left are Governor Bill Phillips, Governor-elect Brian Rodgers and Vice Governor Bob Palys.

and especially in North America, where we have been losing members for a number of years.

I took notes on some of his important points during his talks with the idea of sharing them with you. Some of Gunter's major points include:

- To grow, we may need to change our thinking.

- Growth is a matter on the club level.

- We need to educate our officers about growth.

- We need to help weak clubs.

- We want to end the year with at least one net member gain per club.

- On a worldwide basis, he wants to grow South America, but we need manpower and money to do this.

- And he wants us to remember that children are our future.

Gunter's points are thought-provoking. It should be obvious to any club or district that if you are stagnant and losing members, you might need to change the way you are doing things. This idea leads right into the idea of growth being on the club level.

Yes, we do start new clubs and gain membership that way, and new club building is an important part of our new growth plan, but the strength of Kiwanis is our local clubs.

New members don't join Kiwanis International; they join one of our nearly 100 local Kiwanis clubs in our district.

Short of working to build a new club, our individual efforts to get new members will be at the local club level.

Gunter's comments work together to help us build a stronger Kiwanis, just as our growth campaign is designed to grow and strengthen Kiwanis worldwide. Let's embrace both; let's grow Kiwanis.

And remember this final thought Gunter would always add when talking about his club: let's have fun while doing it. Meetings must be fun.

Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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Plan to attend the Alabama District Convention in Mobile Aug. 1-3, 2014

Mobile (From Page 1)

group that emphasizes service and children around the world with a little fellowship thrown in on the side.

Let's start with fellowship. Friday night we'll meet at the History Museum of Mobile. As our theme is "The Great Gatsby," feel free to dress in character for this event and the Saturday Interclub Luncheon. The museum is about five blocks from the hotel. There is a parking lot near the museum.

The whole museum will be open for us. You will be able to enter the Bankhead Tunnel as it is being built and see the Liberty Ships being constructed. The historic homes of Mobile can be visited in a miniature display.

We will be dining on fried fish or chicken tenders and all that comes with them and listening or dancing to the band "Swing." Parents can enjoy the museum and dinner with their children; please bring them, and then while they enjoy a movie and popcorn, you can enjoy the music and visiting with other Kiwanians.

Saturday will start with breakfast. At breakfast, you may get the latest update on Reading Is Fundamental, or if you are a lieutenant governor, you may breakfast with past lieutenant governors and discuss what is happening in the district.

The children's program will start at 9 a.m. Saturday with swimming at the rooftop pool, followed by lunch. Then they will head off to the Exploreum and IMAX where they can explore, experiment and even learn a thing or two without realizing it.

Meanwhile, Kiwanians will also be exploring and learning through workshops featuring our past and future, with a different twist. Anticipated topics include "Do the 1924 Objects Still Apply to Today's World?," "The Heroes Among Us," "How Will Your Club Celebrate our 100 Years?," "Journey of a Tetanus Shot" and "Why Am I Here?," as well as some technical and club management topics and a session on "The Formula."

Several members of our sponsored youth groups will be covering Service Leadership Programs and the Eliminate Project; you know that they look at things a little differently than we do, so be prepared for new ideas.

The Interclub Luncheon will carry on our theme as we learn about what



The lobby of the historic Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa will be a gathering point when Kiwanians and guests hold the District Convention there Aug. 1-3. See the hotel's history at www.rsabattlehouse.com.

has been accomplished this year and hear from our governor-elect about his goals. The Key Clubs will do our table decorations, and a prize will be given for the best one.

The Alabama Kiwanis District Foundation will hold its silent auction. Bring or send your donated items (you don't have to attend the convention to help). The donation sheet you'll need will soon be on the district website.

To support Reading Is Fundamental, we will be giving away a quilted wall hanging made by Elaine Williams of the Azalea City Quilters Guild. This one-of-a-kind wall hanging is being



The history of Mardi Gras in Mobile can be explored in exhibits, so bring the family to the Aug. 1-3 convention.

made especially for RIF. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

If you are not able to attend the convention but still would like to support RIF, send a check to: District Convention c/o Keith Graham, 6000 Grelot Road, Mobile AL 36609. Please write RIF in the "for" line, and we'll send you your ticket and make sure you are in the drawing.

While all of this is going on, we also will have a service project. A blood drive is planned with the help of LifeSouth.

Saturday night will be the Governor's Banquet, where we will recognize our outgoing and incoming lieutenant governors in a special way. We'll also use this time to thank Governor Bill Phillips and First Lady Jean for the work they've done this year and welcome our incoming district leaders, especially Governor-elect Brian Rodgers and his wife, Holly.

We will end our conference Sunday morning by remembering those who are no longer with us at our memorial service. The music for this service will be provided by the gospel group "The Messengers."

We've tried to cover it all. All we need is you!

Remember: Mobile will have everything but the birthday cake ... that will be next year in Tuscaloosa.

What can I do in preparation for Mobile?

Congratulations to Gordon Ruggles, Sheffield Kiwanis, for being the first to register for the Alabama District Convention in Mobile on Aug. 1-3.

Now here's what you need to do:

- Register on or before June 30 to get your name in "The Hat" to get your convention registration fee of \$125 back. Online registration will be available on the district website, as well as mail-in forms. The fee will go up to \$175 after June 30.

- Call the Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel, 26 N. Royal St., 251-338-2000, to reserve your room by June 30; ask for the Kiwanis convention rate of \$129 (parking included).

- Support your Key Club by contacting your Key Club lieutenant governor to see what they are doing for our convention.

- Send copies of old photos of your club's activities to Brian Rodgers at brianrodgers@gmail.com to use for our slide show.

- Sign up for email blasts about the convention and other Kiwanis news; just let Brian Rodgers know at brianrodgers@gmail.com.

- Bring or send an item for the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation silent auction.

- Buy a ticket(s) for the RIF wall hanging fundraiser.



The hat above will hold the names of Kiwanians who register by June 30 for the Alabama District Convention in Mobile Aug. 1-3. The person whose name is drawn will be given his or her \$125 registration fee back. The Friday evening dinner with a band will be at the History Museum of Mobile, where Kiwanians can take a closer look at Mobile's past, including miniature houses, transportation, river influence and interactive exhibits. Children will go to the Exploreum and IMAX on Saturday.



International convention July 17-20

Only a couple of Alabamians have registered to attend the 99th Kiwanis International Convention planned for Japan July 17-20, according to District Secretary Pat Manasco.

For anyone making a late decision to attend, registration after May 15 will be handled at the convention hall at the on-site rate of \$250.

Convention activities will be held at the Makuhari Messe International Convention Complex in the city of Chiba, a suburb of Tokyo. Hotels are within walking distance.

The Kiwanis International website convention section has information about Japan, special packages and air, hotel and tour possibilities.



Kiwanis CONVENTION

Club delegates should be sure to print out the online certificate of election of club delegates and alternates in advance so it can be filled out and signed by club officials and sent in or taken along.

For details, check the website: www.kiwanis.org/convention/2014.



Kiwanis®

96th Alabama District Convention Kiwanis International

August 1-3, 2014 - Mobile, AL
Hosted by: Azalea City Kiwanis, Mobile

The Battle House Renaissance
26 North Royal Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Please indicate all that apply:

Kiwanis Office	Current	Past	Elect
Club President			
Club Secretary			
District Governor			
Lt Governor			

Name:	Last:	First:
Address:		
City:	Zip code:	
Phone:	Alt phone:	
email:		
Club	Division	

I am (Circle One)
Delegate
Alternate Delegate
Delegate at Large

If you are not from the Alabama District, please enter your District here:

For hotel reservations please contact The Battle House Renaissance 251-338-2000

Ask for the Alabama District Kiwanis Convention group rate - \$129.00 plus tax and surcharge (parking is included).

EVENT	Number	@	Cost	Total
Kiwanian early registration (postmarked by June 30)		@	125.00	
Kiwanian late registration (after June 30 or at convention)		@	175.00	
Spouse/guest early registration (postmarked by June 30)		@	58.00	
Spouse/guest late registration (after June 30 or at convention)		@	75.00	
Spouse/guest name for badge:				
Friday Schedule (August 1)				
Reception and dinner at History Museum of Mobile			Included	
Saturday Schedule (August 2)				
Breakfast				
Governors (past and present)		@	22.00	
Lieutenant Governors (past and present)		@	22.00	
Reading is Fundamental (open to all)		@	22.00	
Interclub Luncheon			Included	
Governor's Banquet		@	47.00	
Sunday Schedule (August 3)				
Nondenominational Memorial Prayer Breakfast		@	25.00	
Childrens Events (includes swimming Saturday am, lunch, IMAX and Exploreum Saturday afternoon, and Pizza dinner with movies Saturday evening) Consent form will be provided must be completed before event				
		@	30.00	
Total Due				

Payment must accompany registration

Identify any special meal/dietary requirements and for whom:

Identify any other special requirements

Make check payable to Azalea City Kiwanis Club Convention.

Mail form and check to Keith Graham CPA, 6000 Grelot Rd, Mobile, AL 36609

Mobile's Keith Graham seeks office of District vice governor

Division 14 Lt. Gov. Keith Graham of Mobile will be a candidate for vice governor in elections held during the Aug. 2 business session at the Alabama District Convention in Mobile.

During these elections, Governor-elect Brian Rodgers of Indian Springs is expected to move up to Governor-designate and become district governor for 2014-15 Oct. 1. Bob Palys of Cullman is expected to move from vice governor to governor-elect.

If elected, Graham would begin climbing the ladder leading to service as governor in 2016-17. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the business session.

Graham has served as president of Azalea City Kiwanis twice, in 2003-04 and 2011-12. The club was recognized as "Distinguished" both years.

Graham has been a Kiwanian for almost 15



Keith Graham

years. However, his K-Family involvement began as charter president of the Key Club at Mary G. Montgomery High School in Semmes, a Mobile suburb. The MGM Key Club was chartered by Azalea City Kiwanis in 1985.

He graduated from Spring Hill College in Mobile with a B.S. degree in Business Administration with a specialization in accounting.

Graham, a Certified Public Accountant, is the managing partner of Graham, Brown & Dutton, PC, in Mobile.

He serves on the board of United Cerebral Palsy of South Alabama as treasurer. He also is board secretary of UCP of Alabama.

He and his wife, Dee Dee, have been married 21 years and have one daughter, Emily. The family attends Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile.

Dates to note

June 17-22, 2014

Circle K International Convention
Nashville, Tenn.

July 2-6, 2014

Key Club International Convention
Anaheim, Calif.

July 17-20, 2014

Kiwanis International Convention
Tokyo/Chiba, Japan

Aug 1-3, 2014

Alabama Kiwanis District Convention
Mobile, Ala.

Inverness Kiwanis project



For its Kiwanis One Day project, the Kiwanis Club of Inverness again this year volunteered at The Owens House, Shelby County Children's Advocacy Center. Members cleaned three play/counseling rooms, windows, the exterior sign, porch chairs and bench; they painted one of the offices and an outside deck table; and they did grounds maintenance. They also helped hang banners and blue ribbons, set out blue pinwheels for Child Abuse Awareness Month in April and put together mail-out packets. Shown are, front row (from left): Loretta Neaves, Janet Collum, Theresa Davis, Louis Steed, Pam McLeod; back row: Eric Swindle, Evan McCauley, Ricky Reaves and Sabrina Young; not pictured are Randy Williams and Guy Roemen. Two springtime fundraising events for the center include a Blue Ribbon Ride May 17 and a Superheroes 5K and Fun Run June 21. Those interested in volunteer work at The Owens House can contact center director Cindy Greer at www.owenshousecac.org or 205-669-3333.

'The Formula' is new campaign to strengthen and energize clubs

By Brian Rodgers

District Governor-elect

This is an exciting time to be a Kiwanis member.

We are approaching our 100th anniversary — a celebration of a century of serving children.

This is a time to look with pride on the many efforts that every club makes to improve the lives of children. It is also a time to celebrate the family legacies that we have in our organization.

We will also look ahead to the next century of changing the world.

What do you love about your club? How can we share that love and spread it to cities where clubs do not exist?

The Formula is our new Global Campaign — an effort to share the love and increase the impact as we strengthen existing clubs and open new ones in communities where they would have a strong impact.

Think about this: Kiwanis clubs enrich communities with 6 million hours of service each year. Think about what could happen if we shared our stories — and inspired others.

Here's where you come in: Every community needs a Kiwanis club. And every club needs Kiwanians. The Formula is your chance to shape the future of your club, your community ... and the Kiwanis family.

Kiwanis members and clubs can play a part in the success of

Alabama District Governor-elect Brian Rodgers was one of about 20 Kiwanians from Alabama who attended a training session in Atlanta in April. He shares his view of The Formula, which will add new energy to Kiwanis as it looks toward its second century of service.

this effort! Any member who loves being a Kiwanian and making a difference can be a part of The Formula Team. Every division can use enthusiastic team members. We have a plan in place, but we need your help.

Clubs can help by supporting neighboring clubs — visiting with them, planning service projects and community events together. Every club should strive to add new members and energy. As we grow, children benefit.

Clubs can also identify areas where a new Kiwanis club would meet a need. Sponsoring and supporting a club in this centennial year would leave a lasting legacy!

Jamie Brabston of the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook is doing an amazing job heading this district-wide endeavor. We have teams in place in every division, but we need new people to step up and commit to the success of Kiwanis in Alabama.

Jamie would love to hear from you. Email her at Jamie.M.Brabston@gmail.com, or call her at 256-679-6341.



Brian Rodgers



Division 4 Lt. Gov. Betty Whisenant of Tuscaloosa Kiwanis is one of several who told why "I Love My Club" on video during the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville. Kiwanians are encouraged to share stories and tell people about their clubs. This is part of "The Formula," which Kiwanians will hear more about at the District Convention Aug. 1-3 in Mobile.



Order free anniversary party kit from KI

Planning to celebrate Kiwanis International's 100th anniversary?

Kiwanis International is making it easy to plan a party for your club by ordering a free kit containing items such as Kiwanis-branded centerpieces, coins, balloons and confetti. The anniversary year is 2015.

Orders for these kits (one per club) will be taken until June 13, 2014. They will be shipped to your club in October and November 2014. Order online by going to: www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis100/celebrate/celebration-party-kit.



Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser presented small Kiwanis banners to representatives of each of the five clubs attending the Division 1 gathering: Huntsville, Metro Huntsville, South Huntsville, Huntsville West and Huntsville Golden K. Among those enjoying dinner and meeting Gasser were Richard Peters, Deborah McKay and Paul Artis from the South Huntsville Club.



KI president (From Page 1)

meet the Gassers during their visit to the regular Monday night dinner meeting at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Club. While the host club got Gasser to present 11 Zellers to club members (see Page 9), two members of other clubs got Hixson Fellow honors: Huntsville Golden K's Raymond Weinberg and Huntsville West's Margaret Watson.

The right balance

In his Huntsville talk, Gasser said customs are different at clubs around the world and even in the same district and division. Kiwanis must determine what people want and "the right balance between social and service."

"Much has changed since those businessmen signed papers in 1919," he said, referring to the beginning of Kiwanis. "Even the ways we connect with each other have changed, with email, skype, twitter and facebook."

"At the local level, you create community," Gasser said. He believes the efforts put into a new campaign for growth "are already paying off." Then he added, "But we really have a lot to do."

People still benefit from belonging to a service organization, he said.

"Why did you become a member? Why are you still a member?"

Answering himself, he said, "I still am in Kiwanis today because there are still children who are sick and hungry."

Gasser said sharing our Kiwanis stories is one formula for helping Kiwanis.

"Tell your friends and family why you are a member, and then invite them," he said. "This is your chance to shape the future of your club. Can you imagine how many lives have been touched since 1915?"

Gasser, a sports enthusiast and member of the Spittal an der Drau Kiwanis Club in the Austria District, also talked about visiting Madagascar in November to see the work Unicef and Kiwanis are doing on the Eliminate Project, which is saving mothers' and babies' lives through vaccinations for maternal/neonatal tetanus.

"I will never forget the smiles on children's faces when they saw us, and how they giggled when they saw their faces in my camera. Some of them might not have been alive if not for the Eliminate Project."

Three more stops

In Birmingham, the international president was introduced during a

reception at the McWane Science Center before the club's Tuesday noon luncheon meeting at the Harbert Center. The Birmingham club, with a \$500,000 donation, is helping fund a new Children's Museum at the McWane center. It also made large donations to create the new Giraffe Encounter and Trails of Africa section at the Birmingham Zoo.

While in Birmingham, the Gassers got to see the Vulcan statue up close and took home a Vulcan souvenir.

The downtown Birmingham club, with 500-plus members, is the world's largest Kiwanis Club and usually gets an annual visit from the international president of Kiwanis. The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery is also one of the largest in the world.

In Montgomery, the officers and board of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery invited representatives of other division clubs to meet Gasser at a Tuesday evening dinner at the Montgomery Country Club.

In Gadsden, a reception was held for the Gassers at the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts downtown before the Wednesday lunch meeting there. Councilman and club member Billy Harris presented Gasser a key to the city, and the club donated \$1,250 to the Eliminate Project in Gasser's name -- saving another 690 lives from MNT.



Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser, back left, presented 11 new Zeller awards to Kiwanis Club of Huntsville members Philip Crocker, Richard Elmes, Woodrow Grayson, Lee Jones, Thomas "Kim" Keller, Marty Martin, Schuyler "Dick" Richardson, Lee Rhoads, Richard Titus, Deborah Youngs and John Youngs. They were joined by some of the club's 15 earlier Zeller recipients.

Huntsville backs Eliminate 100%

By Patrice Stewart

Editor, Kiwanis Kourier

The evening that Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser of Austria spent with the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville and other Division 1 clubs was an evening of fun and firsts.

No, it was not the first time an international president was hosted by the Huntsville club. Paul Palazzolo was there in 2010, and others have visited in the city.

But Gasser said this was the first time he has presented the banner patch marking a club's 100-percent participation in the Eliminate Project.

Local Club Spotlight

Every member of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville gave a donation to the worldwide Kiwanis effort to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus as part of their goal as a \$100K club.

And many club members gave large donations, so on his March 24 visit, Gasser presented 11 Walter Zeller Fellow honors to 11 members. Since his visit fell on a regular Monday-

night dinner meeting at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Club in Huntsville, other Division 1 clubs were invited.

The Walter Zeller Fellowship is an award that helps fund the Kiwanis worldwide Eliminate Project exclusively while honoring Walter Zeller, who in 1940 made the first gift of 25 silver dollars to get the Kiwanis International Foundation started.

Each Zeller recognizes a donation of \$1,250 to the Kiwanis International Foundation. Some district and club foundations assist with part of the amount, and it can be a one-time

(See HUNTSVILLE, Page 10)



The left photo shows Richard Elmes, center, president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville, and one of the 11 members presented a Zeller by International President Gunter Gasser, left, assisted by Alabama District Governor Bill Phillips. At right, Kiwanis Club of Huntsville president Ed Courtney, left, is presented a banner patch by Gasser for the club's 100-percent participation in Eliminate Project donations.





After Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser spoke in Huntsville, he and his wife, Christiana, were presented the book "King Cotton to Rockets," as well as a "Sweet Home Alabama" cookbook and other gifts. He also received a knitted sports scarf. With the Gassers are Past Governor Ernest Hulsey and Ed Courtney, president of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville. At left, at this interclub gathering, Gasser presented two George Hixson honors, assisted by Alabama District Governor Bill Phillips. The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West honored Margaret Watson, while Huntsville Golden K honored Ray Weinberg.

Huntsville (From Page 9)

donation or a two-year pledge.

Gasser, assisted by Alabama District Governor Bill Phillips, presented Zeller honors to Philip Crocker, Richard Elmes, Woodrow Grayson, Lee Jones, Thomas "Kim" Keller, Marty Martin, Schuyler "Dick" Richardson, Lee Rhoads, Richard Titus, Deborah Youngs and John Youngs.

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville already had several Zeller presentations, so this brings the number to 26. And members expect more.

26 Zellers

"Our club had 15 Zellers already and we are adding 11 tonight, with seven more in the works," said Ernest Hulsey, a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville and a past district governor. The club was organized in 1919 with 53 charter members.

Today the Kiwanis Club of Hunts-

ville is a 100K club, having committed to raise at least \$100,000 in donations and pledges for the Eliminate Project and earn recognition as a high-achieving club.

"The Huntsville club has made a tremendous contribution to this effort as a 100K club," said Gasser.

Setting 'a great example'

"You have set a great example for your fellow Kiwanians and helped send a message that we will eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus around the world. Mothers and babies are counting on us," Gasser said.

Earlier Monday, the Gassers were taken on a tour of some of the ball parks, playgrounds and programs Kiwanians helped establish in Huntsville.

"We are honored to be able to show President Gasser the highlights of our local efforts, such as the Metro Kiwanis Sports Complex, the EveryBody Can Play playground and splash pad at Big Springs Park and the Miracle League Field," said Division 1 Lt. Gov. Richard Hartz.

The club focuses its emphasis on children in the Huntsville area through School Safety Patrol fun night, Reading Is Fundamental, Huntsville/Madison County Spelling Bee, Alabama Special Camp for Children & Adults transportation, and Little Learners Program at the Huntsville library.

It also aids the National Children's Advocacy Center, Voices for Alabama's Children, Challenge Youth Leadership Program, Boys and Girls Club, Children's Hospital and Huntsville Amateur Hockey Association youth programs.

Pancakes and more

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville holds an annual pancake breakfast fundraiser and participates in the Huntsville/Madison County Prayer Breakfast and Salvation Army bell ringing and angel tree.

It sponsors an Aktion Club, along with Key Club and other youth service leadership clubs, and presents college scholarships.

Alabama District Kiwanis history



This is the fourth in a series of articles on Alabama District Kiwanis history compiled by Bob McCurley, who has served as an Alabama District Kiwanis Governor and as a member of the boards of Kiwanis International and its foundation.

The growth years

Bob McCurley

The 1950s began with 50 Kiwanis clubs and a membership of 3,089 in Alabama. The decade ended with 75 clubs and a membership of 3,927. This was a 50-percent increase in clubs and a 27-percent increase in members, truly a growth decade.

The decade of the fifties was a decade in which Alabama again burst on the Kiwanis International scene when Alabama presented Albert Tully to the International Board. Tully ran for the International Board of Kiwanis and was elected trustee in 1953 and re-elected in 1955, with an almost 90-percent vote. He was elected treasurer in 1957 and vice president in 1958. The following year Tully was elected Kiwanis International President. The decade ended in 1959 as President Tully convened the first Kiwanis International Board meeting in the new International building at 101 East Erie Street, Chicago, Ill.

Tully had been a member of Kiwanis for 20 years when he became the International President. He had served his own club, Mobile, as president and had been governor of the Alabama District. A practicing attorney, Tully was a member of the law firm of Holberg, Tully and Mobley. He also served as assistant United States attorney for the Southern division of Alabama.

Growth slowed in the sixties as tough times hit America and the Alabama District. Many cities were in an economic recession. The clubs in the district recognized the great need for public service as they were actively involved in helping these communities.

The Alabama District of Kiwanis continued to grow each decade after its beginning.

Alabama in 1960 had 75 clubs with 3,927 members. The decade ended with Alabama at 79 clubs and 4,120 members. Although a modest growth, it was still positive growth, showing a 5-percent increase in clubs and a 5-percent increase in members.

Internally, the district underwent several changes. James L. "Bubber" Nisbet became the district secretary in 1964. He would serve as secretary for the remainder of the 1960s, all the 1970s and well into the 1980s. Nisbet, of Tuscaloosa, also became the treasurer and bulletin editor. In 1965, the office of governor-elect was created. In 1966, breakfast clubs were first promoted.

In 1965, Kiwanis International celebrated its golden anniversary. Governor Roy Burgess promoted the 50th anniversary by holding the District Convention in the very hotel

and room where Kiwanis was bought from organizer Brown in 1919. To recognize the 50th anniversary of Kiwanis, 50 trees were planted. More than 200 billboards placed across the state proclaimed the Kiwanis anniversary.

At a time when the Kiwanis District was not growing or expanding, Alabama Key Clubs and Circle K became nationally recognized. Key Clubs and Circle K clubs were popular with youth-

oriented Kiwanians.

The Alabama Key Club District was formed in 1953 with its first District Administrator, John H. White of Bay Minette, who began what was to be a long tour of leadership of Key Club in Alabama. Billy Long of Baldwin County High School became the first Key Club Governor. By 1959 the Key Club District increased from four areas to nine divisions, the same as Kiwanis, and grew from a mere 12 clubs at the beginning to 47 clubs at the end of 1959, an increase of almost 400 percent.

In 1960 Hoyt Blaylock of the University of Alabama became Circle K International President. Two years later, Pettus Randall III of Tuscaloosa was elected Key Club International President. The Key Club District by this time had 68 clubs with over 1,500 boys. The district began the John H. White Key Club Award to recognize the

(See HISTORY, Page 13)





The Distinguished Lieutenant Governors and Presidential Letter of Commendation winner in the photo at left were recognized at the Mid-winter Interclub Luncheon by 2012-13 Governor Wayne Sisk, left. The bottom photos show Distinguished Club presidents and secretaries honored by Sisk.



Distinguished clubs, lieutenant governors cited for their work

By Patrice Stewart

Editor, Kiwanis Courier

"Distinguished" recognitions for lieutenant governors and clubs in 2012-13 were announced during the 2014 Mid-Winter Conference Interclub Luncheon on Feb. 22 by Wayne Sisk, 2012-13 district governor (see adjacent list).

Eight lieutenant governors were cited for successful divisions based on a Kiwanis International scoring system that considered membership growth, distinguished clubs, engagement and annual club giving.

Each receives a Distinguished Lieutenant Governor pin plus letter and gift from Tom DeJulio, Kiwanis International president for 2012-13.

DeJulio's letter commended the eight for going "above and beyond" to achieve growth in numbers and service. "You exercised an exceptional level of leadership to motivate clubs to perform more projects and higher levels of fundraising to serve the local and global needs of children," said DeJulio.

The Presidential Letter of Commendation was given to one who, though not meeting all criteria for "Distinguished"

(See DISTINGUISHED, Page 13)

Distinguished Lt. Governors

Division 2	Andy Palys
Division 5-6	Armand St. Raymond
Division 7	Barry Robertson
Division 9	Bruce Buehler
Division 11	Ervin Dailey
Division 12	Margaret Murphy
Division 13	Thom Lott
Division 14	Waynetta Black

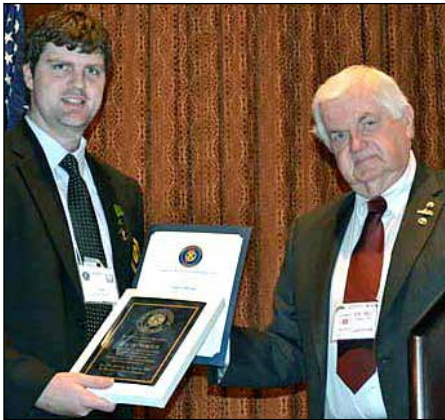
Presidential Letter of Commendation

Division 3	David Beasley
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Distinguished Clubs

(Presidents and secretaries are listed.)

Florence	Julianna Moritz and Ellen Beasley
Birmingham	Harry Brock III, Morgan Murphy
Azalea City/Mobile	Kim Collum and Karla Moons
Gadsden	Basil Vice and Lamar Smith
Greenville	Joshua Simmons, Miriam Nixon
Jackson	Terry Blevins and Diane Pruitt
Andalusia	Joe Armstrong and Jon Raley
Rogersville	Jeffrey Owens, Leslie Barksdale
Anniston	Alyson Mims, William Dan Pitts
Homewood-	
Mtn. Brook	Susie Kelley and Colean Black
Daphne-	
Spanish Fort	John Fowler, Michael Brumfield
Chelsea	Dale Neuendorf, Diane Thomas
Monroeville	Bob Crawford and Phillip Allen
Ozark	Randy Brannon and Leah Harlow
Montgomery	Russell Dunman, Andrea Screws



Youth leadership

Sponsored Youth Program leaders attended the Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference in Prattville. Kiwanis Governor Bill Phillips presented Mercer Barnett awards to Key Club Governor Bella Martinez of Winston County High School and Circle K Governor Zach Nolen of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. They are with their Kiwanis counterparts: Bella with Key Club Administrator George Price and Zach with Circle K Administrator David Womack. Also in Prattville was Emme Martinez, Key Leader co-chair and Key Club representative, shown with Jamie Brabston, chairwoman for Key Leader.

Distinguished (From Page 12)

status, "worked very hard this past year to achieve high levels of service and fundraising," DeJulio said, "and gained personal satisfaction by doing your very best to fulfill the Six Objects of Kiwanis."

The criteria for Distinguished Club also focused on the Six Objects of Kiwanis, said Sisk.

He noted that the awards criteria was presented to lieutenant governors, published in the Kiwanis Kourier online, posted to the Alabama District website and sent by email to club presidents and secretaries. Similar criteria has already been published online for the 2013-14 year, so

check it and send in your club's online application for 2013-14 honors.

The club awards include a banner patch for the club and Distinguished Officer pins for presidents and secretaries. "You left your stamp on the future of Kiwanis," said DeJulio in his commendation letter to them. "You made sacrifices and worked hard in projects and fundraising for the health, education and safety of children, both locally and globally."

Sisk again commended Alabama Kiwanians for their efforts during his term. "Thank you, Alabama District of Kiwanis members, for the positive difference you are making in communities and children around the world," he said.

History (From Page 11)

outstanding Key Club Committee in the district. In 1965 Alabama District Key Clubs took top honors for the third straight year under the leadership of Judge White as chairman, with Dan Hale of Langdale and Stanley Johnson of Cullman serving as co-chairmen.

Circle K first appeared as an organization in Alabama in 1957. Paul Osborne Jr. of Walker College was selected Circle K Governor in 1958.

That same year, John Hoyt Blalock of the University of Alabama was elected Circle K International Trustee. Kiwanian Dr. Walter Jones of the University of Alabama, who had been active as chairman of the Kiwanis International Special Committee on Circle K, was Circle K International's third chairman in 1955.

Circle K had no officially chartered clubs before 1954, but by the end of 1959 there were nine universities with Circle K organizations.

Kiwanis, now 99 years old, is alive and well in Alabama.

There are many more "Kiwanis stories waiting to be told." If you have anecdotes or stories you want to include in the Alabama District history, please send them to me.

Also, anyone who may have information or Kiwanis pictures of these early days, please send them to me, Bob McCurley, rlmccurley@gmail.com, or to District Secretary Pat Manasco, patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net.

Future editions of the Alabama Kiwanis Kourier during 2014 will include excerpts from other decades, along with articles about our clubs, sponsored youth organizations and district leadership.

Mid-winter speaker



The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville's president, Ed Courtney, presented a \$20,000 check for the Eliminate Project to Tammy Driskill, Eliminate district chairwoman, during the Mid-Winter luncheon. "Last November, we made a pledge to be a Model Club, and this completes that pledge," said Courtney. The club has raised more than \$50,000 for Eliminate. In January, the club decided to go for 100K status; the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham is the only other 100K club in Alabama. By March, over 25 percent of Huntsville members were Zeller Fellows; Driskill congratulated the Huntsville group (top photo). (See more about Huntsville on Page 9).



During the Mid-winter Conference, Alabama Kiwanians heard from Greg Beard of Louisiana, who is heading the new growth campaign for Region 2. He also told about seeing The Eliminate Project at work in Madagascar. That project, he said, "is our second opportunity to change the world" by battling maternal/neonatal tetanus (the first was the battle against Iodine Deficiency Disorder). He talked about Jocine, a woman he met who had lost a child to MNT. "Then she met a health worker who gave her our series of three shots, and now she has a healthy 10-month-old boy," Beard said. "What if every Kiwanian served with their time, talents and treasury — imagine the difference it would make in the world."

*Photos by
Patrice Stewart*



Kiwanians share everything from laughs to program ideas to pancake syrup. These officers of the Kiwanis Club of Anniston, who were scheduled to flip pancakes March 1, managed to load up another club's leftover syrup when they all attended the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 21-22. Loading cartons into the truck are Anniston president Forrest French and president-elect Steve Medeley.



Alabama Kiwanis Foundation head Gordon Ruggles, left, and Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental director Cathy Gafford present a RIF Barnett Award from the Huntsville West club to Division 1 Lt. Gov. Richard Hartz during the Mid-winter Conference luncheon. He has served the club as president twice. "He is a great Kiwanian and has spent his life helping other people," said Gafford.



Karaoke Night

*Fundraiser for The Eliminate Project
at Mid-winter Conference*



*Photos by Patrice
Stewart*

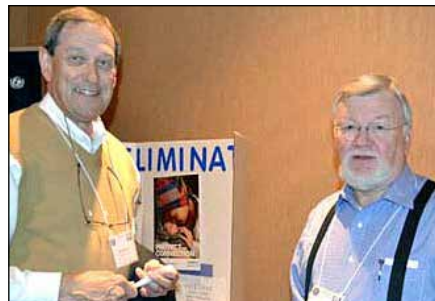




Mid-winter Conference

in Prattville

Photos by Patrice Stewart

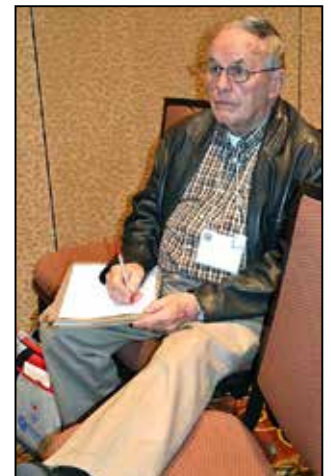


Plan to attend the Alabama District Convention in Mobile Aug. 1-3, 2014



Mid-winter Conference in Prattville

Photos by Patrice Stewart



Circle K clubs helping RIF ignite a passion for reading

By Haley Greathouse

One spark can ignite a fire large enough to burn down a forest, and with One Spark an organization is hoping to ignite a passion for reading inside children.

"As a college student, it is hard to imagine my life without reading," said Jessica New of Huntsville, former Troy University Circle K president. "My classes, social media, even shopping for basic necessities require reading. To think that people live their lives without reading amazes me."

Children's books line the shelves in a warehouse in Opelika. This is the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental warehouse, a place that helps give children a better chance in life.

Joe Dean of Opelika, former governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis, and his late wife, Jean, partnered with National Reading Is Fundamental to improve children's literacy throughout Alabama.

Kiwanis is a service organization spanning several generations. Its focus is on children, including its "Young Children Priority One" -- aimed at improving the lives of children in Kiwanis districts.

Dean wanted to help the children in his district, and by partnering with RIF he was able to. Since its start, two more branches of the Kiwanis family, Circle K and Key Club, have joined the Alabama District of Kiwanis to combat illiteracy.

"I have been a part of Circle K for four years," New said. "I have read to many children during this time, and to see their faces light up at the stories is amazing. I know that I am making a difference."

Jean Dean RIF is 22 years old, and its leadership has never left the Dean family. The Deans' daughter, Cathy Gafford, has run the program since 1992 and has helped to provide over 25,000 books to at-risk children in low-income areas across Alabama each year.

"(Literacy) is a problem that can be

This story and sidebar about Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental were written as a class project by Haley Greathouse, a Troy University sophomore from Eufaula and member of Circle K at Troy. The broadcast journalism major and leadership and development minor is also the immediate past lieutenant governor of the Wiregrass Division of Circle K.

solved," said Zach Nolen of Jasper, past governor of the Alabama District of Circle K and a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "By reaching out to children, we are able to ignite a passion for reading that they will carry with them. We will never know the full difference one book can make."

Research from the U.S. Department

of Education shows 774 million people in the world are illiterate. Thirty-two million adults in the United States cannot read at all. Twenty-one percent are unable to read higher than a fifth-grade level. Nineteen percent of high school graduates cannot read. In Alabama, one in four adults is functionally illiterate, and 15 percent are illiterate.

"The statistics are overwhelming," said Abbie Pickett of Dothan, Ala., a member of Troy University Circle K. "To know that there are that many people who go about life unable to read is shocking."

In 2010 the Alabama District of Circle K International created One Spark, a multiyear initiative to help

(See SPARK, Page 20)



Jessica New, a Troy senior psychology major from Huntsville, participates in a RIF reading at the Troy Head Start Center.



Troy University's Circle K sent a big group to the RIF warehouse in Opelika to assist other K-Family members with sorting and labeling books to be given out during RIF readings in the 2013-14 school year.

One Spark: What's your RIF story?

Cathy Gafford, executive director of Jean Dean RIF:

"I was reading a book to a child, one that he had just chosen. He enjoyed the book and asked me to read it again, which I did. And then he wanted to hear it again. I said: 'Everybody else is finished. We've got to get back with our group. Why don't you have somebody at home read you the book?'"

"And he said, 'I don't know anyone who knows how to read.' I said 'Your momma can't read it to you?' He said, 'She don't know how to read.' So I said, 'Don't you know anyone who knows how to read?'"

"And he thought and thought and said, 'Well, my aunt can read.' I said, 'Well, why don't you let her read it to you, and then you can get to where you can read it to your mom and maybe teach her how to read?' He just lit up. He was just thrilled."

Jessica New, past Troy University Circle K president:

"There was this one kid, and I noticed he came in with an adult. The adult was his translator. The child only spoke Spanish. So as I was reading, the adult was translating to the child, but the book was a very basic children's book with a lot of pictures,



One project that benefits Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental is the annual Troy Kiwanis Princess Ball. Shown are Jonathan Cellon, Troy Kiwanis president and Circle K adviser, and his daughters Alice, 5, and Ada, 2.

so it was easy for the child to relate to. "After the reading, I was able to go

talk with the child because I'm a Spanish minor. I told him more about the story and was able to go over it with him. For this child the RIF reading was not only teaching him to read, but also helping to teach him English."

Jonathan Cellon, Troy Kiwanis president and Troy University Circle K faculty adviser:

"I guess my RIF story starts at home. My children are around the same age as the ones at Head Start. I am able to read to my children every day, but many children at Head Start don't have that opportunity. I'm glad that Kiwanis participates in RIF readings because it allows community members to work hands on with these children, and to make a difference."

Abbie Pickett, Troy University Circle K member:

"I was reading to a group and they all just got silent and still. When I was done reading the book, I asked some questions about the story, and they answered. Later the teacher came up to me and said, 'I've never seen those children be as still as when you were reading to them. Thank you.' That is my RIF moment."

—Compiled by Haley Greathouse



Pancakes and prizes

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West held its 14th annual pancake breakfast at Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville on March 15. "It was a resounding success, with over 300 people buying tickets to attend the event and enjoy hot pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, juice, milk and lots of hot coffee," said Doug Driskill, pancake breakfast chairman. The club offered numerous door prizes, including the grand prize of a 32mb iPad Air, won by 10-year-old Kyle Johnson of Huntsville. Kyle is shown with Driskill, left, and club president Richard Hartz, right. Other door prizes, including gift certificates, also were presented. Club members and local Key Club members donated their time to make the event a success, said Driskill. The event raised more than \$6,000, which will be donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society and other Huntsville West Kiwanis projects.



Mother's Day Zeller

Ellen Beasley, secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Florence, was honored with a Mother's Day Zeller award at the May 9 club meeting. The presentation by her husband, past Lt. Gov. and Eliminate chairman David Beasley (right), included a \$250 portion from the club. The total cost of each Walter Zeller Fellowship, \$2,150, helps the Kiwanis International Eliminate Project save and protect more than 690 women and their future babies from maternal/neonatal tetanus.

Spark (From Page 18)

fund Jean Dean RIF in Alabama.

"The program was initially created to pay off the RIF warehouse in Opelika, Ala.," Nolen said. "Then there were federal budget cuts, and Jean Dean RIF had to decide whether to cut services or increase fundraising. Circle K stepped in and pledged \$50,000 over a period of five years. This pays for one month of book distributions a year."

Circle K partners with the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation every year to participate in RIF events including Tri-K Day, a day where Circle K, Key Club and Kiwanis join to box the books that will be sent all over the state each year; fundraisers such as pancake breakfasts; and RIF readings where Kiwanis and Circle K members go to read books to at-risk children.

"The thing I love about RIF readings is every child that hears the book gets a book to keep," Pickett said. "They can then take that book and learn to read, and possibly teach their family to read."

The purpose of the organization, though, is to give the children a chance at a better future.

"You can give them a box of food, and they will eat today, but not tomorrow," Gafford said. "But if you teach them to read, then they will be able to read and get a job and buy whatever they want to eat tomorrow."

In Troy, RIF readings are held three times a year at the Head Start center. "It's really rewarding to see the kids

with the books," said Elizabeth Brazier of Panama City, Fla., Troy University Circle K president. "They love to tell you about the books they've already read, and they will just walk up and hug you just because."

"This program gives community members a chance to work hands on with these children," said Jonathan Cellon, Troy Kiwanis Club president and Troy University Circle K faculty adviser.

Circle K says that anyone can help ignite the passion of reading. "You can help combat illiteracy without being part of the Kiwanis family; a \$12 donation per month would give 12 children books at home," Nolen said. "Just reading to children can also make a difference. Whether it is in a day care center, Head Start, or even at home, it is the act that makes a difference."

Troy University students can get involved by volunteering at Head Start. Troy's Head Start is located at 201 Lake Ave. In most classes, a book will be available to read to the children.

"If you don't want to read to the children, just stay and play with them," Pickett said. "The children light up when volunteers enter the room. Because they are from low-income families, most people don't think to volunteer with them, but volunteering at Head Start not only brings joy to the children, but also extra funding for the Head Start center."

To get involved with Head Start, students can call Head Start at 334-566-6959. To reach Troy University Circle K, students can email circlek@troy.edu.