



Alabama

# Kiwaniis Kourier

Spring 2010

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10 pages

## What happens in Vegas ...



On to Vegas chairwoman Pat Manasco promotes "The Magic of Las Vegas" theme for the International Convention.

### You won't know unless you go in June

By Patrice Stewart  
Kiwaniis Kourier editor

It's not too late to register for the Kiwanis International Convention and find out for yourself June 24-27 "What Happens in Vegas."

Registration is still available online at the KI website through May 25 at \$250, including shuttle transportation from convention hotels to the Las Vegas Convention Center and access to the exhibit hall, Kiwanis store, regular and featured forums and general sessions. After that date, you can register on site in the convention center for \$300.

On-line registration for the following convention hotels is also available through May 25:

Flamingo, the Alabama District's assigned hotel, \$95; Las Vegas Hilton, \$99; Bally's, \$109; and Paris, \$139.



The website for the 95th Kiwanis International Convention tells you what you can see and do between convention programs. Some highlights include former Secretary of State Colin Powell, comedian Jay Leno, and former Key Clubber Jerry Mathers, known as

Beaver on TV's "Leave It to Beaver."

Pat Manasco, the Alabama District's "On to Las Vegas" chairwoman, also promises "show girls, gambling, mountains – anything you want to do."

#### District Dinner at Red Rock

She especially wants the nearly 100 Alabama Kiwanians and guests currently registered to sign up for the Alabama District Dinner on Thursday, June 24, which starts with a 5:30 p.m. bus trip

(See LAS VEGAS, page 10)

### Convention in Florence offers jazz, barbecue, riverboat ride

By Patrice Stewart  
Kiwaniis Kourier editor

Kiwanians from around Alabama are invited to bring their families to Florence for the 92nd Alabama District Convention July 23-25.

The convention schedule is designed to take advantage of the area's variety of activities such as parks and boat rides on the Tennessee River, the birthplace of Helen Keller, a home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and a Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail course.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel and Conference Center, where the convention will be held,

(See FLORENCE, Page 10)

## Sisk seeks District office

The Anniston Kiwanis Club has announced its support of member and Lt. Gov. Wayne Sisk as a candidate for the Alabama District of Kiwanis treasurer position for 2010-2011.

President Rod Nowlin of the Anniston club received a unanimous club vote in support of Sisk and sent an endorsement letter to the District office April 27.

Sisk is the second candidate to announce for this position, which now leads to governor-elect and



Wayne Sisk

then governor in 2012-13. Bob Palys, past lieutenant governor and past Cullman Kiwanis Club president, announced early this year that he will seek the treasurer post; his announcement and biographical information were in the Winter 2010 Kiwanis Kourier and can be viewed on the District web site.

The election will take place on July 24 during the District Convention in Florence.

(See SISK, Page 8)

Remember to gather silent auction items for the July 23-25 convention in Florence

# Recruiting drives, 2 new clubs in works

Our 2009-2010 Kiwanis Year is more than half over, and I have enjoyed visiting Kiwanians all over the state.



## From the Governor

By George Aiken

In all my visits, I have been stressing growth, distinguished clubs, growth, membership drives and more growth.

We have made significant achievements, including a new club at Magnolia Springs and a new club in the building stages in Rogersville, another possibility in Trussville and still another at the Poarch Indian Nation in South Alabama.

We are also working to grow a club in Double Springs, with the help of our Key Club at Winston County High School.

And we have built several Aktion clubs, including one in Eastaboga and one in Birmingham.

## KI president impressed

Our International President, Paul Palazzolo, attended the Alabama Key Club Convention at Prattville in March and was greatly impressed with our Key Club students. He also met with Kiwanians from around the



Alabama District Treasurer Tammy Driskill, Governor George Aiken and Governor-elect Colean Bailey take a break at Mid-winter meeting in Prattville on Feb. 27.

state in Troy and Huntsville before ending his visit at the Birmingham Kiwanis Club. I hope you got to meet him during his visit to our District.

With all the above, I heartily commend all Kiwanians in our half year's accomplishment. With that same fervor, I recommend that during May we recruit many new Kiwanians to go along with close to 85 others wearing new Kiwanis pins this year.

Please continue your efforts toward being a Distinguished Club. We need 55 clubs to be a Distinguished District, and we're slowly moving toward that number.

Thanks for all you are doing for Kiwanis, our communities and our kids.

## May recruiting update

The Alabama District was one of a few that saw a net increase in membership over April, and exciting things are under way, with recruiting drives and two new clubs in the works.

After an organizational meeting scheduled May 25, recruiting for the Rogersville club will continue until charter ceremonies at a Florence club noon meeting. Division 2 Lt. Governor David Beasley has led the effort to organize this club.

More potential members also are sought for our other new club, which is in Winston County. Bob Palys, myself, Becky Estes and Sherry Russell of the Jasper Kiwanis Club are involved in the development of the new club.

Kiwanis International President Palazzolo has agreed to attend and preside at both chartering events, so all stops are out to get both clubs ready for the charter dates: June 17, Winston County at Smith Lake, and June 18, Rogersville at Florence.

Good hunting on your recruitment drives. Thanks to your hard work, we're moving ahead.

Hope to see you all at our International Convention in Las Vegas June 24-27 and our State convention in Florence on July 23-27.

# Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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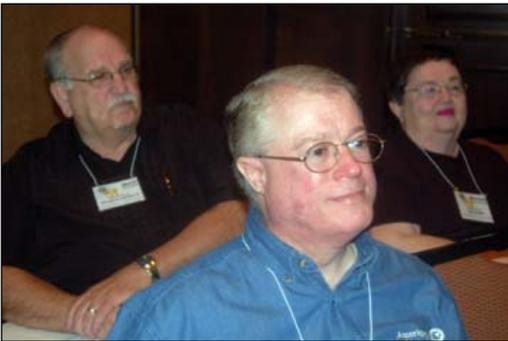
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**Have questions? Call the District Office in Birmingham toll-free at 1-800-745-1334**



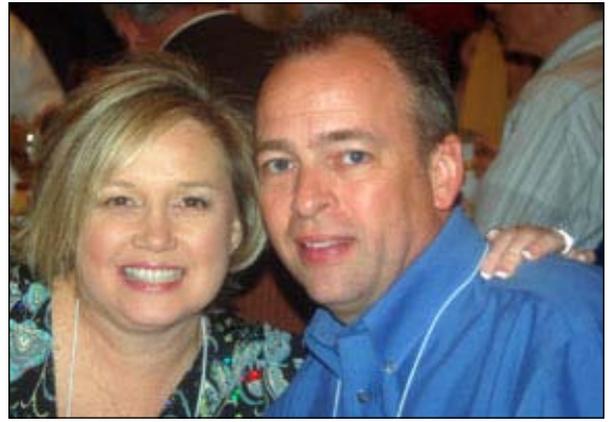
Photos by Patrice Stewart



# Mid-winter summit

Prattville, Feb. 27, 2010

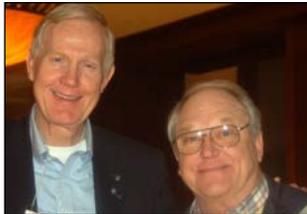




# Prattville meeting

Mid-winter summit, Feb. 27

Photos by  
Patrice  
Stewart





## Kiwanians recognized for their achievements



Many awards were given out during the Mid-Winter Interclub Luncheon. Immediate past governor Ernest Hulsey was on both the giving and receiving ends, with a Kiwanis Leadership Society plaque. Distinguished Lieutenant Governor awards for 2008-09 went to Jeff Kirkland of Division 12, Governor's Citation, and to Wayne Sisk, Division 7, Outstanding Leadership Citation. Recognized for their divisions' annual giving to the Kiwanis International Foundation during their 2008-09 terms as lieutenant governors were Colean Bailey, Bill

Phillips, Kaye Barbaree, Johnny Robertson, Kirkland and Sisk. Past governor Ed Humphries, KIF district chairman, got awards for riding the herd to record annual club giving above \$5 per member. John Napper, past president of the Daphne-Spanish Fort Kiwanis Club, was among those picking up the 21 Distinguished Club Awards. Thom Lott of Fairhope and Napper got appreciation awards from Kiwanis International for helping start the Magnolia Springs club.

## Distinguished clubs, '08-09

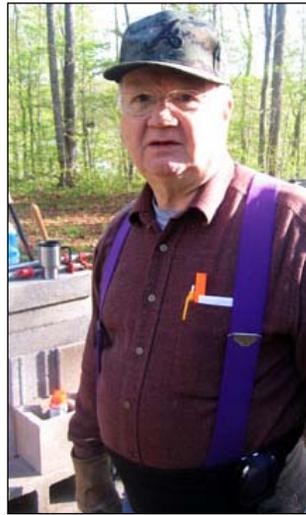
These Kiwanis clubs received Distinguished Club Awards for 2008-09 from Past Governor Ernest Hulsey during the Interclub Luncheon Feb. 27 at the Mid-Winter Summit in Prattville:

- Huntsville
- Florence
- Sheffield
- Centreville
- Helena
- Metropolitan-Birmingham
- Anniston

- Gadsden
- Oxford Golden K
- Wadley
- Wedowee
- Good Morning, Montgomery
- Alexander City
- Dadeville
- Tallasse
- Troy
- Brewton
- Greenville
- Jackson
- Monroeville
- Daphne-Spanish Fort

# WANTED!

Colean Bailey, governor-elect, seeks an enthusiastic, organized person who is well-connected within the district and wants to enhance young adults' leadership skills. Contact [colean.bailey@energen.com](mailto:colean.bailey@energen.com). Thank you, new District Treasurer Tammy Driskill, for your service to the Key Leader program.



With the assistance of Kiwanians from Florence and Muscle Shoals clubs, seven more permanent tents at Boy Scouts' Camp Westmoreland got their start on Kiwanis One Day.



## Florence spearheads plan to build permanent tents at Boy Scout camp

Kiwanians in Division 2 chose Kiwanis One Day on April 10 to put some muscle, as well as brainpower, into a project to build permanent tents at a Northwest Alabama Boy Scout camp.

Division 2 Lt. Governor David Beasley gives this history of the project:

During Kiwanis year 2008-2009, the Kiwanis Club of Florence was approached by Northwest Alabama Boy Scout leaders Alan Riethmaier and Mark Simpson to build 50 permanent tents for Camp Westmoreland.

Camp Westmoreland is located in Lauderdale County on the west bank of Shoals Creek.

It started with 44 acres in July 1929, and now Camp Westmoreland has

more than 285 acres and has been used by more than 70,000 Boy Scouts.

The Florence club was interested in the request from the start, but the \$900 per unit cost for 50 units was more than the club could sponsor while maintaining previously budgeted commitments.

One club member, Ivan Stafford, offered to organize kits with lumber precut to size and ready for assembly. Jim Sak and Mike Buckreus were able to obtain donated lumber and fasteners from local businessmen.

So, with money available from the club and donated materials, the first five tents were built in the fall of 2009. Pressure-treated lumber, canvas and other materials were specified by Boy

Scout criteria, and the assembly met Boy Scout plans.

The Kiwanis Club of Florence wanted to continue this project, and it invited other Division 2 clubs to help with money and/or labor.

On Kiwanis One Day, April 10, the Muscle Shoals club donated money and manpower to help Florence get seven more tents well under way.

Club members have expressed satisfaction and pride with this project, which will benefit many Boy Scouts for 20 years to come. For information about this project, contact Bert Bock, 256-627-5035.

More pictures of these tents may be viewed at <http://Westmoreland.1bsa.org>.

# Big RIF dates, opportunities ahead

**By Cathy Dean Gafford**

Reading Is Fundamental Coordinator

Lots is going on with Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental these days!

Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo visited and participated in a Kiwanis Club of Birmingham RIF distribution at Festival Head Start, a tradition enjoyed by readers and children alike.

Three members of the national RIF staff attended and participated in a Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa RIF distribution at Tuscaloosa Head Start -- the first time anyone from RIF in Washington, D.C., had attended any of our distributions.

Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis has given over a million books to over 400,000 at-risk children in the last 20 years!

## Mark your calendars

Here are some important Jean Dean RIF 2010 dates to remember:

- June 12, Truel Watts "Ride to Read" motorcycle poker run, Opelika
- Aug. 28, annual Tri-K Kiwanis family warehouse workday at RIF warehouse, Opelika
- Sept. 11, third annual Run to Read



RIF Coordinator Cathy Gafford gets check for \$5,000 from Past Governor Steve Cragon to help with the RIF Capital Campaign. Cragon and wife, Mary Jo, also made an earlier donation and are members of The Billy Goats Gruff Society. RIF labeled its donation levels for popular children's books.



Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo reads to students at Festival Head Start during his visit to Birmingham. The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham handles reading and Reading Is Fundamental book distribution at this site, and he addressed the club at its noon meeting March 30.

5k and 1.5-mile fun run

Fundraising is in full swing to complete our first-ever Capital Campaign this year to provide permanent warehouse/office space for Jean Dean RIF statewide activities. Donations to the Capital Campaign are tax-deductible.

## Award a Barnett

Giving a \$500 Alabama Kiwanis Foundation RIF Barnett, which can be used as individual or club recognitions, is also a great way to help support the Capital Campaign.

Contact Alabama Kiwanis Foundation President Sidney Lanier, joansid@netcommander.com, for RIF Barnett forms.

## Birdies for Charity

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation/Jean Dean RIF also qualified for the Regions Charity Birdies for Charity event, where donations in our name are returned to Jean Dean RIF.

The charity that raises the most through this tournament can also win a cash prize. Make secure donations by going to [www.jeandeanrif.org](http://www.jeandeanrif.org). As soon as you donate, you also become eligible for weekly prize drawings.

## Motorcycle Poker Run

The Truel Watts Ride to Read Motorcycle Poker Run will be held June 12, leaving from Big Swamp Harley Davidson in Opelika. Contact me at [jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net) to ride, sponsor or help volunteer.

## Silent auction items

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation board member Gordon Ruggles is working

hard to get auction items for the upcoming District Convention in Sheffield July 23-25.

Proceeds will be split between Jean Dean RIF and other Alabama Kiwanis Foundation activities.

Contact me at [jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net) for more info about the auction and to get auction forms.

## Billy Goats society

Every level of giving is a big help to the Jean Dean RIF Capital Campaign. A plaque in the Jean Dean RIF Building will honor all businesses, individuals and clubs who make donations to the capital campaign.

Donations of \$5,000 and up qualify donors for The Three Billy Goats Gruff Society ("Big brothers" meeting special needs).

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Board member Steve Cragon and his wife, Mary Jo, have joined this group and hope others will also step up and make donations of any size, which will be a big help to complete the campaign by Aug. 13, 2010.

Other members of The Three Billy Goats Gruff Society currently include: Huntsville West Kiwanis, Charter Bank Foundation, Joe Dean, Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, Alabama District of Kiwanis, Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, Kiwanis Club of Opelika, Kiwanis Club of Auburn, Kiwanis Club of Dothan, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, Memorials for Truel Watts, Jo Ann Lanier First Lady Campaign, and Russ Grimes.

See a current list of society levels at [www.jeandeanrif.org](http://www.jeandeanrif.org) by mid-June.

## Sisk (From Page 1)

Sisk, 45, an Anniston native, is currently serving a second term as lieutenant governor of Division 7, which includes the clubs of Anniston, Oxford, Oxford Golden K, Jacksonville, Gadsden, Cherokee County and Fort Payne. In his first term, Sisk achieved Distinguished Lieutenant Governor recognition. At the recent Alabama District Growth Summit in Prattville, he received that award, as well as recognition for all his clubs' full participation in the Kiwanis International Annual Club Giving Campaign.

Sisk has been a member of Kiwanis since 2002, when he was appointed the charter president of the new Kiwanis Club of Northport during the term of late governor Truel Watts.

"Kiwanis is something I have been so passionate about since I joined because of the service we provide the children and the communities of the state, nation and world," Sisk said.

He gives credit for his Kiwanis and leadership development to the many Kiwanis leaders and their spouses who have been mentors to him.

"These individuals seemed to possess the hearts of Kiwanis and have shown much interest in my development as a member and as a person."

Sisk said he has been associated with several service organizations "but I have never seen a service organization that has made such an impact in the community and the world as Kiwanis."

He has been a member of four different Kiwanis clubs in the past eight years because of movement with his company. For 25 years, he has worked for Alabama Gas Corp., which is a big supporter of service organizations in the state and encourages its employees to get involved.

As an operation supervisor in Tuscaloosa, Sisk served as president of both the Northport and Tuscaloosa Kiwanis clubs before being transferred to Jasper as district manager. When he transferred to the Jasper Kiwanis Club, he served as lieutenant governor-elect of Division 3 before moving back to Anniston as Alagasco division superintendent. There he joined the Anniston Kiwanis Club and accepted the Division 7 lieutenant governor role in 2008.

"My time as an officer of these dif-

ferent clubs and with the District has done much to prepare me for the treasurer position," he said.

Sisk has been a familiar face in Kiwanis since he joined and attended international conventions in New Orleans, Indianapolis, San Antonio, Orlando and Nashville.

"I believe that all members need to experience as many of these conventions as possible to meet the interesting members around the world and to get a renewed spirit and enthusiasm about our organization," he said. "These conventions, as well as our district conventions, are a wonderful resource for members to learn what direction Kiwanis is going in and to decide, as a voting delegate, how we want Kiwanis to look in the years to come."

He believes Kiwanis is about doing service work, "and is not just a meet-and-eat dinner club."

"The project with the most impact I have been a part of has been the construction of Boundless Playgrounds across the state," said Sisk, who helped build playgrounds in Helena and Montgomery and helped design and build the most recent site in Northport with United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama and the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club.

"When you see a parent, with tears in their eyes, watch their physically challenged child play alongside other children on a playground designed for them, you are hooked," said Sisk. "I have seen this swell of emotion at the Helena and Northport playgrounds, and I commend all members who put their mind, their money, and their labor into making these dreams a reality."

Sisk and his wife, Toni, live in the Alexandria community just northwest of Anniston. They are members of Lloyds Chapel Baptist Church in Anniston, where both serve as leaders and teachers.

Their 19-year-old daughter, Haley, is enrolled in the nursing program at his alma mater, Jacksonville State University, where she hopes to get a Circle K club started soon. At Hillcrest High in Tuscaloosa, Haley was a Key Club member, serving as president her senior year.

Their 24-year-old son, Justin, lives in Tuscaloosa and will graduate with an RN degree from Beville State School of Nursing in May and marry Traci Beams of Tuscaloosa soon after.

"Key Clubs and Circle K Clubs are an important component of our

Kiwanis family and need our support," said Sisk. "I commend Bob Palys for what he has done with Key Clubs over the years. Our K-Family programs are where young leaders are developed, and we must support them with our attendance at their club meetings and participate in their service projects."

As a Key Club member himself in high school, Sisk knows that for a child to be a great leader, he will need to see leadership in action. Kiwanians need to understand that Key Club and Circle K are where most service hours are spent helping others, and as adults in this organization, he feels that we need to be a contributor with our time as well.

Being involved and being an example of service and leadership to young people is of great value as they become adults, and Sisk hopes that will help them roll right into a Kiwanis Club after graduation.

"That would do wonders for our membership," he said. "Meanwhile, recognize them for what they are doing and always offer your full support. And it's always great to invite Key Club and Circle K Club members to your Kiwanis Club meetings, buy them a meal and let them see how much we do for the community and the children."

A supporter of the Jean Dean RIF program, Sisk has read at many Head Start schools around the state and has made it every year to Tri-K Day in Opelika, where books are inventoried and labeled for distribution to children.

"I admire Cathy Gafford for all that she has done to make her mom's dream come true and for making the Jean Dean RIF program one of the largest and most successful in the nation," he said. "I have never left a day reading for RIF that I didn't come away more blessed than when I walked through the doors of that school."

If elected, Sisk said, "I will give the office of District Treasurer my very best effort and will work diligently to support the various Kiwanis initiatives of both the Alabama District and International. One of my primary goals will be membership, for every new member is two hands for service."

"Imagine what we can do as the premier service organization in this world with the 1 million members we have set out to have by 2015," he said. "We have a short time to get there and much to do, so roll up your sleeves and let's work together."

# International president visits Alabama



Events were held around the state when Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo from Springfield, Ill., visited the Alabama District March 26-30. Along with attending the Alabama District Key Club Convention in Prattville, he visited Kiwanians at events in his honor in Troy and Huntsville. Then in Birmingham he participated in a

RIF reading program before addressing the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham's meeting. Above, several members of the Kiwanis Club of South Huntsville are shown with him at the Huntsville reception: left to right, Milton Page, Jack Connor, Jim Robertson, Ken Riggs, Richard Peters, Palazzolo, Paul Artis and Charles Gillespie.



Judy Byars, Metro Huntsville, with Palazzolo.



Kim Keller, Will Paulfrey and Ted Brostrom of Huntsville with Palazzolo.



Terry Park of Huntsville with the international president.



Melissa Owens and Jeffrey Owens of new Rogersville club; Michael Broden and Lt. Gov. David Beasley of Florence; Palazzolo; and Bert Bock of Florence.

**See you at the Alabama District's summer convention in Florence July 23-25!**



## Division 2 gathering

Division 2 Kiwanians gathered April 27 in Hartselle for an update by Lt. Governor David Beasley, who agreed to serve again next year. They talked of building Boy Scout tents, playground work days, funding scholarships and selling tote bags imprinted with Kiwanis emblems and children. The red rocks on the wall at Sedona Steakhouse reminded Steve Stanley of Sheffield and Noel King of Decatur of the rocks they may see during the convention in Las Vegas.



## Florence (From Page 1)

is known for its attractive pools and grounds, as well as rooms with balconies, spa, and tower restaurant.

Pam Fleming of the Sheffield club, current Kiwanis International trustee and past district governor, is heading up the convention plans.

"It's hard to follow a cruise convention and a Vegas convention, and there will be no pole dancing, gambling or showgirls," she said. Instead, the convention committee will showcase local attractions. Florence and Sheffield Kiwanis clubs are convention hosts.

Clubs are asked to donate items for the silent auction that will benefit the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

Board meetings and a golf outing are planned during the day Friday.

On Friday at 6:30 p.m., jazz music and barbecue for \$15 will be featured at River Heritage Park during a weekend that kicks off the W.C. Handy Music Festival in Florence.

The Saturday events include an 8 a.m. breakfast followed by meetings and Interclub Luncheon (all included in registration fee for members), plus an excursion with lunch for spouses and guests (\$25).

Evening events include an Honors Reception at 6 p.m. and Governor's Banquet at 7 p.m. (\$40), both at the Convention Center next to the hotel. Children can attend a pizza and movie night for \$5.

On Sunday, a Memorial Breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. (\$19), followed by board meetings.

A new addition is a 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday paddlewheel riverboat cruise on the Pickwick Belle, which will go from Florence Harbor through the locks at Wilson Dam with TVA officials narrating. Tickets will be \$25.99 for adults and \$15.99 for those 2 to 11 and can be bought at the convention.

The early registration fee for Kiwanis members, including a convention T-shirt, is \$85 if received by July 12. After that, it's \$105.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa at 800 Cox Creek Parkway South is holding rooms until June 29 at the convention rate of \$121 (\$134.31, including taxes and fees). Call 256-246-3600 or 800-228-2100 or check [www.marriottshoals.com](http://www.marriottshoals.com). The Kiwanis convention group code is ADK.

Registration forms and payment information are posted on the Alabama District Website at [alabama.kiwanis.org](http://alabama.kiwanis.org).

Make checks payable to Florence Kiwanis Club--Convention and mail them with registration forms to Ivan Stafford, P.O. Box 1034, Florence, AL 35631. For more convention information, call 256-483-3571.

## Las Vegas (From Page 1)

outside Vegas for a tour of scenic Red Rock Canyon, with dinner following at Red Rock Casino Hotel and Spa.

Mail your \$100 per person District Dinner reservation to the District office, 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham, AL 35209, and get to know Kiwanians from Alabama and some other states on this jaunt.

Manasco will be glad to tell you more about the dinner and tour; call or e-mail her at 205-296-9620, 205-226-1434 or [pamanasc@southernco.com](mailto:pamanasc@southernco.com).

Check out the photos with this link to the District website information about Red Rock: <http://alabama.kiwanis.org/2010/04/22/convention-district-dinner-scenic-red-rock-canyon-tour/>

Las Vegas is easy to get around in, and you may want to buy a pass and ride the monorail. You can book some shows featuring celebrities, Cirque du Soleil, music or magic, or take in dozens of free sights and sounds, from music and fountain displays, Venetian gondola rides, the "Eiffel Tower" and street cafes of Paris, indoor gardens under glass and indoor changing "skies" with thunder and rain every few minutes.

Before you go, check the KI web site for information on who is running and what amendments and resolutions will be proposed during the business sessions. Delegates will again use handheld units, which helped make voting quick last year in Nashville.

For more information, click on Las Vegas convention 2010 at [www.kiwanis-one.org/convention](http://www.kiwanis-one.org/convention).