Two Kiwanians have announced they will be candidates for 2011-12 district treasurer, a post that leads to governor, when elections are held during the District Convention in Andalusia Aug. 12-14.

Both candidates, Bob Palys of Cullman and Bill Phillips of Pell City, earned “Distinguished” honors for their work as club presidents and division lieutenant governors. Cullman Kiwanis Club president Wilson Henderson and the club’s board nominated Palys, who after serving as president and Division 2 lieutenant governor has been club secretary for five years, with “Distinguished” honors twice. The Kiwanis Club of Pell City endorsed William L. “Bill” Phillips Jr. without reservation. Club (See OFFICE, Page 14)

Aiding in tornadoes’ aftermath
This photo from Hackleburg shows the “eerie” aftermath of tornadoes that struck many parts of Alabama on April 27, according to Kiwanis Governor Colean Black, who has been looking at damage and putting the collection of school supplies, a district project, on the fast track. See related items on Pages 2, 6, 9 and 14.

2 running for treasurer
Bill Phillips
Bob Palys

Kiwanians to convene in Europe
By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier Editor
Are you registered for the Kiwanis International Convention July 7-10 in Geneva, Switzerland?
Forty-eight from Alabama are, but it’s not too late for you to join them.
Pat Manasco, District executive at the Birmingham office and “On to Geneva” chairwoman, said 44 Alabamians were registered by the first week of May, and then the number increased by four more, with 36 Kiwanis members and 12 guests now registered.
Online signup ends May 25, but you may register when you arrive at the Palexpo, Geneva’s convention center, Manasco said.
Several of those who waited until May to (See GENEVA, Page 3)
District executive Pat Manasco, left, and Governor-elect Tammy Driskill check out the Alabama District’s jackets and T-shirts for the Kiwanis International Convention in Geneva.

Plan to attend the Alabama District Convention in Andalusia Aug. 12-14
Kiwanis responding to tornadoes

The killer tornadoes that struck Alabama April 27 affected 36 counties – and nine of our 14 Kiwanis divisions.

As I checked on damage around Alabama, Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 seemed to have been hit the hardest. Entire communities were completely destroyed.

In Tuscaloosa alone, one of our former Circle K members lost his home, a spouse of a Kiwanian lost her business, and a Kiwanian’s son lost his home.

In Huntsville, three Key Club families lost their homes. In Cullman, two Kiwanians had extensive home damage. I’m sure there is much more I haven’t mentioned or don’t know about.

However, nothing compares to the injury and deaths of our children throughout the state. Alabamians have lost 25 children under the age of 20, and countless others were admitted to hospitals with varying injuries.

Project in high gear

Children and families all over the state have lost their homes, places of work, schools and/or church structures. There are 18 schools throughout the state that have been damaged -- and many of these are totally destroyed.

To answer one of the many needs of our children, the District Project put in place in October went into high gear. Many school supplies have already been collected and assembled into packets to get children back into school with supplies in hand. Many more will be made to prepare children for the start of the next school year in August. These families will not be in much better shape in August than they are now.

Generosity of Kiwanians

Kiwanians from all over have been so generous in contributing to the Alabama District’s education supply needs.

We have collected around $10,000 from Kiwanians around the state in supplies and cash donations.

Kiwanis International Foundation is sending the district office $5,000.

We have also received over $5,000 from our Kiwanis friends in the Texas-Oklahoma District, and our friends in Florida have donated more than $47,000 directly to the American Red Cross, plus two semi-truckloads of clothing and personal supplies.

The Florida District also brought us $5,000 from Kiwanians in the Texas-Oklahoma District, and our friends in Florida have donated more than $47,000 directly to the American Red Cross, plus two semi-truckloads of clothing and personal supplies.

School supplies

So far, we have put together more than 225 basic school supply packets, which were given to every child of Hackleburg Elementary School as they headed to a new location at a church to finish the school year.

We have also given supplies to three Key Club families who lost their homes in Huntsville.

As I continue to go around the state to view the damage and speak to clubs, it is very apparent the need is great for us to continue collecting and assembling supplies to prepare for the start of the school year in August. Lists of specific items needed will be published through e-mails.

Cash and checks

Cash or check donations made to the Alabama District Foundation and sent to Pat Manasco at the District office in Birmingham are greatly appreciated.

We are working to purchase in bulk to bring the cost of items down and negate shipping costs. All donations are 100 percent pass-through to the children.

Thank you for your love and concern for our children. It’s been a very difficult time, but the strength and support for our neighbors is ever present, and we will get through this.

Please feel free to contact me with information concerning the needs of the children in your area. I can be reached best through e-mail at governor@alkiwani.org.

Yours in service,

Colean
District Convention Aug. 12-14 at Andalusia club’s fairgrounds

The 93rd Alabama District Convention will be hosted by the Andalusia Kiwanis Club on Aug. 12-14, 2011.

The theme for the convention is “Kiwanis Families in Service.”

It’s a logical choice for a theme, since Andalusia Kiwanians make money for service by putting on the annual Kiwanis Covington County Fair. Kiwanis District Convention events will be held at the fairgrounds building.

On Friday night, Andalusia Kiwanians will cook and serve an evening meal of “Fair Foods.” Hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage dogs, chips, funnel cakes, cotton candy and drinks will be served while children and the young-at-heart enjoy fair rides.

Friday night free

There will be no Friday night fee for convention attendees, as the Andalusia Club, Andalusia businesses and the city of Andalusia are funding the night’s activities.

However, in keeping with the convention theme, each family attending will be requested to provide one or more of the following: $10 dollars in school supplies for the Alabama Kiwanis “Disaster School Supplies” project, two pillowcases for the “Pillowcase Dresses for Impoverished Alabama Young Girls” project, or $10 for “Eliminate,” a Kiwanis International Worldwide Service Project.

Friday night entertainment will be provided by the Monroeville Kiwanis Club Singers.

“The Saturday program will be a full day and anything but usual,” said District Governor Colean Black. “We will begin our day with the business session” (normally held in the afternoon).

Economy, service workshops

That will be followed by hands-on workshops designed to focus on service and two major presentations: “The Global Economy and Cities and Towns in Alabama” and “Growing Kiwanis through Service in Today’s Culture.”

Activities for children and spouses also will have a service component.

Following the Governor’s Dinner on Saturday night, there will be a concert by a band whose lead singer is a Kiwanian from Chelsea.

“Share these dates and plans with your fellow club members, and plan to attend and make this year’s convention an outstanding event for Alabama Kiwanians and their families,” said Black.

Electronic registration for this convention will begin in early June. Watch the Alabama District of Kiwanis website for information on events and hotels.

Geneva
(From Page 1)

register had no trouble getting plane and hotel reservations, as well as signing up for the convention.

Book a room through Kuoni Travel at the Kiwanis International website and you will get a free tour to Annecy, France. You can choose from 50 workshops to help improve your club and Kiwanis experience, along with many other tours before and after the convention.

You will have the opportunity to hear British primatologist Jane Goodall at the opening session July 7 and actress Jamie Lee Curtis at the closing session July 9. In between, you can check out the exhibits on ways your club can make money, learn about The Eliminate Project, meet other Kiwanians from around the world, elect new international leaders and train to be a more knowledgeable Kiwanis leader.

“We need to get all our delegate forms filled out and in order before we leave for Geneva,” said Manasco. Otherwise, you will not be allowed to vote on Kiwanis business.

After you register for the convention, you must fill out separate paperwork with club and member numbers to be an official voting delegate. The form must be signed by club officers and, at this point, taken to the registration area in the convention center for processing.

The convention location in Europe makes it hard to have the usual district dinner this year, said Manasco. District caucuses also will be difficult to hold because at this convention, unlike those held in the United States, there are no hotel assignments for each district.

Many of the Alabama representatives are staying at the Starling Hotel near the convention center. Manasco asks that all Alabama folks meet at the main bar of the Starling at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 7, or as soon as possible after the opening session is over. Convention business will be discussed briefly since elections will be held on Friday.

After that, some Alabama attendees may want to make dinner plans.

Those with questions can call Manasco, 1-800-745-1334 or 205-296-9620, or call Kiwanis International.

Deadline for the summer online Kiwanis Kourier is June 20, 2011
State’s top high-school teacher is a Kiwanian and Key Club adviser

A member of the Kiwanis Club of Helena who works with Key Clubs has received statewide honors in her role as a high-school teacher.

Marla R. Hines was named Secondary Teacher of the Year/Alternate State Teacher of the Year May 11 at the Alabama “Stars in Education” awards ceremony, which was aired on Alabama Public Television.

Hines teaches 10th grade physical science at Vestavia Hills High School and serves as adviser to its 37-member Key Club, as well as Birmingham Metro Zone chairperson for Key Clubs.

During the “Stars in Education” program, held at Frazier United Methodist Church in Montgomery, the 16 district finalists (eight elementary and eight secondary) for Teacher of the Year were honored. State Superintendent of Education Joseph B. Morton presented plaques and announced the top awards.

The Elementary Teacher of the Year, Dr. Gay F. Barnes, took State Teacher of the Year honors. The 20-year education veteran, who teaches first grade at Horizon Elementary School in Madison’s City School System, was commended for helping struggling readers.

Hines and Barnes will spend some of the 2011-12 school year serving as ambassadors for public education and the teaching profession.

Morton applauded both teachers as ones who truly personify the time, attention and patience that great educators show every day in the classroom.

Hines, who is in her 10th year of teaching, said science became a passion for her after a college entomology class. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and in 2006 earned National Board Certification.

She advocates student-centered, inquiry-based methods of teaching and learning instead of traditional lecture-based, teacher-centered techniques.

Hines exemplifies the Kiwanis International mission of serving children, and she feels that teachers should work together to improve their schools and communities. She also served as Key Club adviser while teaching at Spain Park High School earlier.

She and her husband, Tim, live in Pelham with their children Kacie, 12, and Jacob, 9.

“I am really proud of Marla because she is a science teacher, just as I was,” said fellow Helena Kiwanian Callie Waldrop. “Not many in science seem to have the inclination to be involved in student service organizations. And I must say, Marla is an outstanding science teacher.”

Huntsville holds a party for school safety patrols

School safety patrols are one project of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville, which recently hosted a dinner and outing for 350 children. Member Buzz Heeschen was in charge of the event, also attended by adult safety patrol officers and Huntsville’s city administrator, police chief and deputy chief. Bob Jones High School Key Club members helped on food lines. After eating, about 280 children tried ice skating — many for the first time. The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville has recognized a new group of safety patrol children each year for over a decade. In addition to the party, Kiwanis provides vests, badges, flags and other equipment as needed each year.
Olivia Humphries at a foundation display during the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville in February. A member of the Kiwanis Club of Tallassee, she is succeeding husband Ed as Kiwanis International Foundation chairwoman for the Alabama District.

$5 per Kiwanian supports child health, scholarships

By Olivia Humphries
Kiwanis International Foundation District Chairwoman

It is so crucial that each of our clubs participate in the Annual Club Giving campaign.

Your gifts help support children who are hungry and help provide school supplies, disaster relief, and scholarships to our Key and Circle K clubs.

In addition, the Annual Club Gift provides grants to clubs around the world for the benefit of children, medical clinics, training of our SLP (Service Leadership Programs), Disaster Relief and other training programs.

As of May, we are behind the curve on achieving our $5 per capita goal. I encourage each of you to check with your club and verify that your club has sent in the $5 per capita to the Kiwanis International Foundation. If we get the $5 per capita, we will receive 10 scholarships for the Alabama District.

I urge each of our lieutenant governors to contact the presidents and secretaries of each club in your division and encourage them to participate in the Annual Club Giving campaign.

In addition to the above, I would remind you that the Robert Connally award is available to all clubs; they just need to write about someone who made a heroic act to save someone’s life. Send in newspaper articles, pictures and the situation that the person was in when they made lifesaving action.

This would be great publicity for your city, as well as promoting your club. Information about the award is available on the Kiwanis web site.

I want to thank each of you for participating in the Annual Club Giving campaign. I am looking forward to learning that all of our clubs are involved and trusting that we can obtain the 10 scholarships for our students.

Stay tuned for information on our new World Service Project, “Eliminate.” This project will provide vaccines to eliminate Tetanus in 38 countries.

Olivia Humphries is now serving as Kiwanis International Foundation chairwoman for the Alabama District.

She was appointed to replace her husband, Past Governor Ed Humphries, who was named to the Kiwanis International Foundation board of trustees beginning Oct. 1.

Olivia joined the Kiwanis Club of Tallassee in 2005 and has served on many of the club’s committees. She was awarded Distinguished President honors for her service in 2006-2007.

Her other service activities have included Master Gardener, church WMU director, Cub Scout den mother, and Alabama Disaster Relief feeding team and child care team.

Olivia and Ed have two children and one granddaughter. They live on Lake Martin near Dadeville.

What will it take to eliminate Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus from the earth?

Approximately 129 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more.

This new Kiwanis Worldwide Service Project will take $110 million raised by 2015 and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.

The series of three vaccines costs only $1.80 per person. It can save the lives of 30,000 mothers and 60,000 newborns each year in 38 countries where MNT kills a baby every nine minutes.

Your help is needed. Start educating your club and community now.
Kiwanians from all over gathered in Prattville for educational programs during the Alabama District’s Mid-winter Conference on Feb. 26. (Division 13 Lt. Gov. Randall Gautney made the photos here and below.)

Disaster initiative proves timely

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier Editor

When Kiwanis Governor Colean Black last fall proposed a District Project of collecting school supplies to give to children after disasters, she had no idea what was ahead.

The Alabama District agreed to partner with the American Red Cross, and a Red Cross representative spoke at the Mid-Winter Conference in Prattville on Feb. 26.

“We are two different but similar organizations that have a higher calling,” said Chris Osborne, chief branding and communications officer for the Red Cross in Birmingham.

He said the Red Cross offers “compassionate, caring assistance” after disasters.

Osborne said they can set up thousands of cots and serve thousands of meals after a disaster. “Children ages 5 to 18 are a big part of those we serve,” he said.

“Because of you, we are what happens next,” after a fire, flood, hurricane or tornado, Osborne said.

He said Kiwanians will help provide supplies to answer the needs of children after disaster strikes — “not just school supplies, but things like toothbrushes, because Colean was willing to expand your service project.”

Black said she is excited about the partnership prospects and anticipates matching Kiwanians with Red Cross offices around the state to help with needs.

Mother Nature interfered before a plan could be put in place. Just two months after Osborne’s talk, his agency’s employees and trained volunteers were inundated after dozens of tornadoes struck Alabama on April 27.

“The Red Cross has been overwhelmed with basic life needs,” said Black.

See her column on Page 2 for more on the tornadoes’ impact and how Kiwanians and Key Club members worked together to help Hackleburg Elementary School children after their school was destroyed.

Kiwanis District Governor Colean Black, right, invited Red Cross representatives to the Mid-winter Conference. The speaker was Chris Osborne, left. Black hopes to have a panel discussion with Red Cross and state and federal emergency management officials at the summer convention in Andalusia on Aug. 12-14.
Past and present members gathered at All Steak Restaurant at lunchtime April 18 to reminisce and celebrate the 90th birthday of the Cullman Kiwanis Club.

The club was chartered April 18, 1921, putting it into the top 10 or so in age ranking of Alabama Kiwanis clubs.

The first president, M.L. Robertson, led a club with 59 charter members. Today, 2010-11 president Wilson Henderson can count 78 members.

The club has had 12 lieutenant governors and 10 George Hixson Fellows.

Past president Bob Palys noted that when the club was formed, Woodrow Wilson was U.S. president, Joseph Stalin headed Russia, World War I was over and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated in Arlington Cemetery.

The average annual income was $1,236, and the Dow Jones high that year was 60. You could buy a house with garage for $6,000 and a new car from $500 to $1,000. Five pounds of sugar cost a nickel, postage was 2 cents, and gasoline was only 10 cents a gallon — the same as a pack of cigarettes.

Palys said he got some of this information from the extensive notes of the late Raymond Yost, historian, president and two-time lieutenant governor.

The club got off to a good start in 1921 when its Kiwanis baseball team won the state title. Early projects included raising money through Community Chest drives, benefit min-

More about the Cullman Kiwanis Club anniversary, Page 8

Cullman club marks 90th birthday

streels and horse shows to help fund playground equipment, band instruments and stadiums.

They helped sponsor everything from “Cornsippin,” a play, to a violin concert, Strawberry Festival and Oktoberfest, while making donations to many agencies.

Today, two major fundraising projects have withstood the test of time: Radio Day, which began in 1957, and Pancake Day, which started in 1958.

Governor-elect Tammy Driskill of Gadsden brought birthday congratulations from the district and said 90 years is a milestone. “You have a real history of good leaders here,” she said.

Division 2 Lieutenant Governor David Beasley of Florence said that 2015 will be Kiwanis International’s 100th anniversary. “I’ve been working on our club’s history,” he said. “If you don’t have a club historian, I encourage you to assign one and work up your club history.”

Talking at the club’s luncheon are, from left, Cullman Kiwanis Club 2010-11 president Wilson Henderson, District Immediate Past Governor George Aiken, Cullman secretary Bob Palys, Division 2 Lt. Governor David Beasley and Governor-elect Tammy Driskill.
Cullman members share their memories

Cullman Kiwanis Club past officers and members shared memories during the 90th birthday luncheon.

Carl Norrell said that when he moved to Cullman in the 1950s, it had two civic clubs, Kiwanis and Rotary. “Rotary was known then as an ‘old man’s club,’” he said, and the Kiwanians told him he wasn’t old enough to be a Rotarian. “I was a member here 56 years, until 2008, and I’ve thoroughly enjoyed being a Kiwanian and a member of this club,” said the 1961 president.

Jack Ray, 1982 president, said he became a Cullman Kiwanis member in 1977, “and I felt honored to be asked. I took an interest in the Christmas food baskets, and that’s been my favorite project through the years, although we do a lot more things in the community.”

Mary Henry, who was married to the late Dave Henry, president in 1978 and lieutenant governor the next year, has good memories from attending the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas in 1979. “My husband loved Kiwanis … keep up the good work,” she said.

Dr. Paul Bussman, president in 1993 and a state senator, believes Kiwanis “is all about being able to give back to the community … and a lot of people in this room were examples of that.”

Andy Palys, 2010 president, followed in the footsteps of his dad, Bob Palys, the 2001 president. Andy grew up with Key Club and Kiwanis and fond memories of K-Family activities and of Yost.

Spud Campbell, 1999 president, admitted that “I was born the same year as this Kiwanis club.”

Jene Miller, the 1998 president, fondly recalled the late Raymond Yost, 1943 president, as “a real ball of fire” who urged them not to be afraid to ask people to join the club or at least come eat with them and get to know everyone.

More about the Cullman Kiwanis Club anniversary, Page 7

Jimmy Barnes, whose dad, T.J. Barnes, was president in 1966, told about being in Key Club and working alongside his dad at Kiwanis Radio Day and Pancake Day. “It was a natural progression for me to join Kiwanis when I came back to Cullman,” he said. “We need to remember why we are here — to help youth become responsible men and women.”

“Now I have my daughter Ashley here, so we’re carrying on the Kiwanis tradition, and maybe one day she’ll have one of her daughters in here, too.”

—Larry Holt, past president

Larry Holt, president in 1991, said he was glad he joined after a friend’s urging. “I saw a lot of good things happen through this Kiwanis club.” He added, “Now I have my daughter Ashley here, so we’re carrying on the Kiwanis tradition, and maybe one day she’ll have one of her daughters in here, too.”

Don Hubbard, who was president in 1997, said Kiwanis is a way to give back. “What a wonderful club, and what a legacy left in our community.”

Jerry Weathersby, a life member, said the club “makes the individual a better person and the community a better community.”

Jack and Penny Keck were active in Kiwanis in Texas, where she first got him involved. “When I moved to Cullman, joining Kiwanis was one of the first things I wanted to do,” he said. “When we got married a few years later, she joined, too, and we made this club and its projects our life.”

Norris Atchley, 2006 president, and his wife, Barbara, made a donation of $90, or $1 for each of the club’s years.
Tornadoes, fund cuts can’t stop RIF

By Cathy Gafford
Director, Jean Dean
Reading Is Fundamental

Tornadoes and federal funding cuts took aim at Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental in April, but there is still some good news.

By the end of May, you and your fellow Kiwanians will have provided another 25,000 at-risk young children with three books each in their homes this year — a vital component to making family literacy possible and in later learning to read.

You have also shown them that you care about reading and about them personally. You have shared your time, a smile and a good book with “the least of these” and provided these children with not only a book, but your warmth and friendship and the hope that brings. I thank you.

Tornado impact
The recent tornadoes have been hard on our friends in Head Start.

In Birmingham, 12 JCCEO staff members have lost their homes, and two staff members at JCCDC have lost their homes and some family members.

Cheaha Regional also lost a Head Start mom who was physically covering her children when a tree fell on her.

One site lost its entire playground.

A young Head Start child in North Alabama was injured when a tree fell into his home.

Five Head Start sites managed by CAPNA will not reopen this year due to the storms (see www.northalabama-communities.org).

As I was writing this, I finally heard from the Head Start director in Tuscaloosa. His center is still standing, and they are waiting to find out if it is structurally sound.

Most of the rest of the Alberta City area, however, is gone. Most all Head Start families there have lost their homes and are currently in shelters.

All staff survived but several family members and two Head Start children were killed.

Cathy Gafford cuts a RIF cake at Troy University’s Hall School of Journalism and Communication on April 26 after a public relations class presented its project to help promote RIF. Student Heather Harper listens in front of a portrait of Grover Hall Jr., former editor of the Montgomery Advertiser. “Working with this class at Troy to improve our PR efforts was a real pleasure,” Gafford said. “They produced great materials and even had a creative fundraiser to provide funds to help children have books in their homes. I am glad I said yes when they called.” For more information, see Page 11. (Photo by Steve Stewart)

Warehouse is paid for

In August 2010, with your help, Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis was able to pay off the mortgage on the RIF combination warehouse/office in Opelika — the building that houses 80,000-plus books each year while they are inventoried, bookplates applied and then packed to ship to the over 550 sites served around Alabama.

In the warehouse, 300 to 500 local volunteers give hundreds of hours each year to make sure the books are logged in, inventoried and shipped out in a timely manner so distributions can happen on time across the state.

This building is my “home away from home,” where I spend 6 to 7 days a week managing Jean Dean RIF — raising money, ordering books, recruiting volunteers, developing partnerships with the sites we serve, communicating with all of you three to five times a year and setting up three distributions in each of the 550-plus sites we serve.

The building is paid for now … yea! We burned the mortgage at the Mid-Winter Conference in Prattville. Thank you for all of your help in paying off this debt.

Unfortunately, it is still necessary to

(See RIF, Page 10)
RIF
(From Page 9)

pay our insurance, utilities, security and repairs every year — over $15,000.

Please help if you can by making direct, tax-deductible donations to Jean Dean RIF, P.O. Box 848, Opelika, AL 36803-0848.

You can also honor someone in your club or family with an Alabama Kiwanis Foundation designated RIF Barnett or RIF Diamond Barnett or by becoming at least a $100 sponsor for our annual Truel Watts Memorial Ride to Read Motorcycle Poker Run on June 11 or Run to Read Oct. 22 (email jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net for any of these forms). Any of these methods to help are tax deductible. You can also help by donating an item to the Foundation auction at the District convention and “shopping the auction” as well. Jean Dean RIF gets half of the proceeds from the auction. Thank you for continuing to help.

Literacy in D.C.

In early May, Jean Dean RIF was honored again nationally as one of 30 projects from across the nation asked to participate in the first Leaders for Literacy conference in Washington, D.C. As an Opelika Kiwanian and Jean Dean RIF director, I attended the conference, along with Birmingham Kiwanian and JCCEO Head Start director Gayle Cunningham.

After recognizing longstanding, effective literacy projects, they also represented RIF in congressional visits and gained additional training for the RIF Family of Readers project and literacy in general.

Thank you for working with each other to make Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis the largest RIF project in the U.S. serving preschoolers.

New RIF challenge

As you know, Jean Dean RIF is the signature service project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. Each year, we raise money to buy quality, age-appropriate books for over 25,000 at-risk young children across Alabama. One third of that money is raised from Kiwanis Clubs for books for children in their home counties. One third of the money raised comes from statewide fundraisers and grants and donations from individuals, businesses and foundations.

For the last 10 years, the last third has come from a federal grant provided by the Department of Education to National RIF who then allowed local projects to apply for the grant funds. Those funds had been a part of the Department of Education budget for 44 years.

Recent congressional activity has deleted those funds from the 2011 federal budget, which will mean Jean Dean RIF cannot apply for those funds in 2012-2013.

This presents Jean Dean RIF with the following challenge: -- stop serving 8,000 of the 25,000 at-risk young children we have served for many years, or greatly increase our fundraising efforts. These funds have traditionally covered the 17 counties where we have no Kiwanis Clubs or business funders, because these are some of the poorest counties in Alabama — or “plugged the holes” in counties where we had small Kiwanis Clubs and large populations of at-risk young children needing our services. We have also used these funds to help small or new Kiwanis Clubs be able to be a “big help” in their local areas.

Books a constant need

Sam Morgan, a longtime friend of the RIF program and a Montgomery Kiwanian, said so many years ago that “Reading is the key that unlocks the door to education!”

Kiwanis has been the constant in terms of supplying books to our poorest children so they can and will learn to read for over 20 years. We don’t want to let them down now.

Please help if you can, as described above or by allocating a club fundraiser for RIF, or by increasing your clubs annual donation, or by direct individual donation, or by making donations through the Combined Federal Campaign (#43638) or the Combined State Campaign (email jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net for your local LARC number).

Another way to help would be to connect us with funders in counties like Blount, Choctaw, Cleburne, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Lowndes, Macon, Marshall, Sumter, Winston, Wilcox and more! Thank you for whatever you can do to help so we don’t have to stop providing these children with books in 2012-2013.

E-mail news and photos to the Kiwanis Kourier, kkourier@charter.net
Deadline for the summer online Kiwanis Kourier is June 20, 2011

Troy PR class helps promote RIF

By Dr. Bridgette Colaco
Assistant professor of journalism and advertising
Troy University

Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental was the organization chosen by Troy University’s JRN 4423 Public Relations Campaigns class for its spring 2011 end-of-semester group project.

All semester long, students worked on producing a news release, newsletter, print advertisement, feature story, 30-second radio commercial script and spot ad, 30-second television commercial script and spot ad, and outline for a social media campaign.

The students worked on their own to produce the radio and TV commercials, including enacting the roles.

Students also held bake sales and two raffles to help host a reception for guests after the presentation and donate money to Jean Dean RIF director Cathy Gafford.

The presentation and reception were held April 26 at Troy University and were attended by Gafford and her guests, as well as several university faculty, staff and friends of students.

The students had created a Facebook page for the presentation and posted their ideas, material produced and photographs about the project throughout the semester. Jean Dean RIF, which is a signature project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, can now use this page for its own social media campaign.

The purpose of this group project was to provide Jean Dean RIF with public relations materials in a template that could be used in the future with other content substituted.


Circle K uses leadership meeting for Birmingham service projects

By Dana A. Lackey
Bama Bugle bulletin editor, Alabama District of Circle K International

The Alabama District of Circle K planned something different for Kiwanis One Day in April.

The traditional Leadership Development Conference was given a new name and direction: Leadership-through-Service Conference, involving hands-on service around Birmingham.

Circle K’ers decided to make it a K-Family event so that Kiwanians and Key Clubbers also could participate.

At 10 a.m., Kiwanis Family members from across the Alabama District gathered at Heritage Hall at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to be placed in groups to do service with a range of organizations, including Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and Hands-On Birmingham.

They met again at noon for lunch and then divided up again for another service project in the afternoon.

Club Leadership Education officer training was still incorporated in the morning for Circle K club officers.

(To read more of the Circle K Bama Bugle, click on “Bugle” at the top of the Alabama Circle K website at alabamacki.org.)
59 years’ perfect attendance

The Kiwanis Club of Valley recognized Marshall Lane for his extraordinary record of 59 years of perfect attendance while celebrating the club’s 60th anniversary April 20. Club president Patsy McKenzie, right, presented Lane a plaque, honoring him for close to six decades of faithful service to the club. “This one kind of stands out,” she said while presenting annual awards for perfect attendance. (Photo by Wayne Clark, Valley Times News)

Price succeeding Bottsford as Key Club Administrator

George L. Price of Bay Minette has been named Alabama District Key Club Administrator, replacing Bob Bottsford, who died Feb. 20.

Kiwanis Governor Colean Black announced at the Mid-winter Conference that Price, who had been Bottsford’s assistant administrator, would be the interim administrator. “Since that day, George has been very busy working to keep things together, organizing the Key Club District Convention in Mobile, which was a complete success, and improving communications between the leaders of Key Club and Kiwanis,” said Black.

“Governor-elect Tammy Driskill and I were excited to announce at the closing session of the Key Club convention that George Price had been selected the Key Club Administrator for the Alabama District,” Black said. You can contact Price at gprice@alabamakeyclub.org.

In Section 2 of this Kourier (Pages 16-25): more photos from Mid-winter Conference, awards, a surprise party, how Key Clubs help build a hospital, obituaries.

Getting into shape: Change your diet and your priorities

Need some inspiration to get that diet and exercise program under way this summer? Rufus Ford can help. This Alabama Kiwanian, who serves as vice president of the Kiwanis Club of Selma, has made his personal health a priority and shares some tips to help other Kiwanians.

By Rufus Ford
Kiwanis Club of Selma

I became a nutritional specialist and personal trainer because I wanted to take better care of myself.

I heard all the talk about how to lose weight, how to lose 10 pounds in one week, how to eat the proper carbohydrates, how proteins can help and a lot of other stuff. However, there is nothing like knowing for yourself.

I enrolled in college and started my journey to take control of my personal health. I am over the age of 40. I write a weekly Wednesday column on personal health for The Selma Times-Journal.

I started writing to share my journey of personal health. It has not been easy, but it has been a journey worth living for.

I am going to share with you some good tips that you can use this summer to start the process of taking control of your personal health. You can change from just doing it for results to forming new habits.

No. 1: Get a checkup from your doctor before you start a workout program. A doctor will help you understand your limitations and give you a good checkup. Men do not like to go to the doctor, but it is time to love yourself.

No. 2: Drink water. Water is essential to any workout plan. Water helps the digestive system break down food and gets your metabolism moving. Start drinking a gallon of water a day, or half a gallon. Water helps our hair grow, helps our skin, helps fight some forms of cancer, helps with digestive problems and helps stop blood clots. Water is a magic pill if there ever was one.

No. 3: Change your diet. We lose weight when we work off more calories than we eat. I had fallen in love with the good taste of foods I like to eat. My diet was awful. Now I eat wheat cereal in the morning with low fat milk; for lunch I eat a salad with a lot of green stuff. I eat fruit for a snack, instead of a candy bar and soda. I just keep making changes to my diet that are in my best interest instead of my desires. My workout consists of 30 minutes walking three times a week and lifting weights once a week.

No. 4: Change your mind-set from “what I want” to “what I need.” My family needs me to take better care of myself. I changed my habits slowly but surely. I don’t want to be healthy for a day; I want to be healthy every day. I changed when it was not easy.

I want you to change your habits, not for me but for the good of all you do. I can be reached by email at prnetrf@yahoo.com for questions and comments.
Mid-winter Conference
Prattville, Feb. 25-26
Photos by Patrice Stewart

Dozens more photos: Section 2, Pages 19-22
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(From Page 1)

president Allyne Aiken said that along with achieving “Distinguished” honors as both president and lieutenant governor, “he is well-known and respected throughout the Alabama District, is very growth-conscious and works diligently toward this goal.”

Bob Palys

Henderson, the Cullman president, said that “Bob has been involved in every project the club has sponsored … and was named the Cullman club’s Kiwanian of the Year twice, only the second member to have been honored more than once.”

Palys has been involved with Key Club work for the past 20 years and a Kiwanis member for 11. “Bob has assisted in building two Kiwanis clubs, four Key clubs, one Builders club, one K-Kids club and is currently working to build a Circle K,” said his club president. For the past five years, Palys has traveled through Alabama speaking for Children’s Hospital.

The Cullman Kiwanis Club turned 90 years old on April 18, Henderson said, but “it has never had the honor of having a district governor. We believe that Bob and our Kiwanis Club deserve the opportunity to serve the greater Alabama Kiwanis District.”

Palys ran for treasurer at last summer’s District Convention but lost to Wayne Sisk of Anniston. Palys said he is “not a quitter” and has decided to run again “because I have been encouraged by so many friends across Alabama” and he feels “that I have much to offer to the K-Family.”

“I feel that I have two major advantages: my age and my occupation,” Palys said. “I know that some people think that I may be too old since I am 62, but I don’t see it that way. A person is only as old as he feels,” and working with young people as the 20-year adviser for the Holly Pond Key Club “allows me to feel young.”

Palys is a retired high-school teacher who teaches government and economics classes part time at Wallace State Community College at Hanceville. “I am not tied down by a daily routine schedule. I can be anywhere and do anything that I want to do,” he said.

He and his wife own a trophy business, but she can handle the work as needed.

“Since I am my own boss, I am free to devote as much time as necessary to make Kiwanis stronger and better. Kiwanis would come first; it would be my No. 1 priority,” he said. “My location enables me to be anywhere in Alabama in six hours or less.”

Bill Phillips

Aiken, the Pell City president, said Phillips has served in most offices in the club and is now serving as mentor to the president and newsletter chairman.

“I know Bill will bring the same enthusiasm, energy and dedication to the office (of treasurer) as he has demonstrated in all his previous elected positions.”

Phillips said the skills he has developed throughout his career in engineering will be useful as a Kiwanis District officer. “Planning, organizational skills, implementing plans, project control and working with people will serve me well,” he said.

“As governor, I would work to grow Kiwanis at all levels. I believe sustainable growth of the Alabama District is best accomplished by having strong, vibrant local clubs that are active in their communities and at all levels of Kiwanis. I would encourage clubs to develop strong relationships with other division clubs through interclubs and within the Alabama District through our conferences and conventions.”

He served two terms as lieutenant governor, was involved in building and charting the Moody Club, and has been involved with other new club site investigations.

Phillips, 70, also would promote mentoring. “I would work to promote the identification and development of potential leaders at the club, division and district levels and to provide information to these members that would educate and encourage them to assume Kiwanis leadership positions.”

He enjoys the multi-generational K-Family aspect of Kiwanis and working in service programs such as Reading Is Fundamental.

“I believe the ability to read is fundamental to every child’s education. The child that can read has a chance to get a good education; the child that can’t read really has no chance,” Phillips said.

“My wife and I read to our son from the time he was born. We do the same for our two grandchildren. It is a joy to be able to read to children and see the happiness on their young faces and the excitement they display.”

“At Pell City, a Key Club member works with a Kiwanis member to read to a Head Start class,” said Phillips. “An added benefit of RIF reading is to see how Key Club members relate to these children and to know our Key Club students benefit from this as it helps them mature in service to others. We really get a multi-layered benefit from the RIF reading program in Pell City.”

Packing school supplies

Checking lists of school supplies to pack for Hackleburg Elementary students who lost everything to tornadoes are Mr. and Mrs. Leland Keller of the Homewood/Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club, with Homewood Key Club members assisting. Last fall, Alabama Kiwanians began a project to collect supplies for use after natural disasters but had no idea the need would be so great across Alabama. You can help by mailing school supplies or checks made out to the Alabama District Foundation designated for tornado relief; send to Alabama District of Kiwanis Office, 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham, AL 35209.
Candidates for Ala. District treasurer

Robert “Bob” Palys

- Retired from teaching high-school English and social studies after 27 years; now 62, teaching government and economics part time at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. Owns and manages Awards Palace with wife, Melba.
- As a Cullman Kiwanis Club member for 10 years, served as a board member for four years, chairman of Radio Day and of Pancake Day four years each, and earned “Distinguished” status for his service as Division 2 lieutenant governor, club president and club secretary (four years).
- Received Mercer Barnett Award, Cullman Kiwanian of the Year twice and New Kiwanis Club Builder Award.
- Attended six Kiwanis District Conventions, seven Mid-winter Conferences and three Kiwanis International Conventions, as well as 20 Key Club Alabama District Conventions, 18 International Conventions, three Georgia District Conventions and seven K-Family Leadership Conferences, plus a Key Leader event.
- Served 19 years as faculty adviser for Holly Pond High School Key Club, which won Most Outstanding Club (by size) 18 consecutive years and many other honors. Serves as Key Club District Board Faculty Representative 1995-present; board trainer eight years. Serves as Key Club adult board liaison for Children’s Hospital 2008-present; presented 28 fund-raising speeches all over Alabama on behalf of Children’s Hospital since July. Received International Citation for Service, Robert Bottsford Outstanding Advisor Award and Hoyt Lee Outstanding Kiwanian Award.
- Serves on Cullman Chamber of Commerce board and as president of Hanceville Business Council; graduate of Leadership Cullman; volunteer in public schools. Other awards include Cullman County Secondary Teacher of the Year, JSU Alabama Teachers Hall of Fame nominee, Carol Eddins Humanitarian Award, Cullman Times Unsung Hero Award. Coach varsity football and baseball for 21 years while assisting with varsity football; also officiated varsity football, basketball, baseball and softball for more than 20 years on both high school and collegiate levels, including several state, regional and national finals.
- Served as W转入 Cumberland Presbyterian Church editor for 18 years.
- Wife Melba is on board of Cullman Kiwanis Club.
- Son Andy Palys, 32, is a Cullman Kiwanis past president; he was Holly Pond Key Club president, a lieutenant governor and international trustee, attending five Key Club International Conventions and winning the Robert F. Lucas International Award for Distinguished Lt. Governor and the Sandy Nininger Award as Most Outstanding Member of Alabama Key Club.
- Son Matt Palys won Alabama Key Club’s Sandy Nininger Award twice and served as Key Club Bama Bulletin editor for three years, being named a Distinguished Editor posthumously after his 2001 death at age 17.


- Member of Kiwanis Club of Pell City since 1986.
- Age 70, born in Piedmont, grew up in Pell City and has lived there since 1 year old except for time spent away in college and job travel requirements.
- Graduated from Pell City High School and the University of Alabama with a degree in mechanical engineering.
- Worked for Rust Engineering Co., Southern Services, and Hoff and Associates, all of Birmingham, and Kimberly Clark Corp. and Bowater Corp. of Childersburg, from which he retired in 2002. Work took him all over North America in design, staff and project management positions where he had responsibility for engineering and construction studies, project development, and job management including job progress, scheduling, cost control and personnel management, client management and vendors.
- Elected vice president soon after joining Pell City Kiwanis Club in 1986; two months into the club year, he took over when the president was transferred; Phillips also served the next full term as president and then a third term in 2008.
- Served two terms as Division 8 lieutenant governor, 2005-06 and 2008-09.
- Named Distinguished President and Distinguished Lieutenant Governor.
- Is a J. Mercer Barnett Fellow of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.
- Involved in building and chartering the Moody Club and with other new club site investigations.
- Worked with K-Kids Club sponsored by Pell City; Pell City Key Club; Springville Key Club after Pell City Kiwanis Club assumed sponsorship; and a new Aktion Club Pell City co-sponsors with Lincoln.
- His wife, Jean, is also a Kiwanis member and presently club secretary; they are active in Reading Is Fundamental and other club projects.
- Served on Pell City boards and committees for more than 25 years, as chairman of the city variance board, on an infrastructure study committee and currently as vice chairman of the city Planning and Zoning Board and a member of the St. Clair County Historical Commission.
- Member of Pell City First Baptist Church since 1953 and ordained a deacon in 1966.
- Has one son and two grandchildren. William Phillips III was a Key Club member four years at Altamont School in Birmingham, serving as president his last year and as a delegate and Sergeant of Arms at the International Convention; he earned degrees from Vanderbilt University and the University of Alabama School of Law and practiced law in Birmingham.

Keep up with Kiwanis International news and information at www.kiwanis.org