Many awards were presented during the 2011 Mid-winter Conference Interclub Luncheon.

Immediate Past Governor George Aiken recognized several of his division leaders for their exemplary service in 2009-10. He presented Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Awards to:

- David Beasley, Division 2
- Jim Jayne, Division 4
- Brian Rodgers, Division 5
- Andy McNiel, Division 6
- Wayne Sisk, Division 7

In presenting Distinguished Club Awards for 2009-10, Aiken especially cited the work done by Dothan, Greater Tuscaloosa, Kiwanis Club of Birmingham and the new club of Rogersville.

“These four clubs did an excellent job; they grew, served, educated and trained themselves for club leadership,” Aiken said.

Distinguished Club Awards went to:

- Division 1 – Huntsville West, Metro Huntsville, Scottsboro
- Division 2 – Cullman, Florence, Rogersville, Sheffield
- Division 3 – Hamilton
- Division 4 – Greater Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa
- Division 5 – Helena, Metro Hoover, Vestavia-Hoover
- Division 6 – Birmingham, Metro Birmingham, Vulcan
- Division 7 – Anniston, Fort Payne, Gadsden, Oxford, Oxford Golden K
- Division 8 – none
- Division 9 – Montgomery, Good Morning Montgomery
- Division 10 – none
- Division 11 – Dothan
- Division 12 – Greenville
- Division 13 – Bay Minette, Daphne-Spanish Fort
- Division 14 – none

Recognized for their divisions’ annual giving of at least $5 per member to the Kiwanis International Foundation during their 2009-10 terms as lieutenant governors were:

- Ann Devine, Division 11
- Marie Moore, Division 8
- John Burch, Division 9
- Brian Rodgers, Division 5
- Wayne Sisk, Division 7

Club representatives from around Alabama accepted top honors for achievements in 2009-10 while several lieutenant governors got “Distinguished” awards during the Interclub Luncheon in Prattville.
By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier Editor

It is not often that a Kiwanian starts his second half-century as a member. And it’s not every day that a Kiwanis member turns 90.

At its April 25 meeting, the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville got a chance to celebrate both Clark Hereford’s 90th birthday and his 50-plus years as a member.

Club president Michael Hodge said they worked in cahoots with Hereford’s wife, Madelyn, and family for a surprise steak dinner and birthday cake for the honoree.

“Clark’s service illustrates what ‘service’ means -- both to the member and his family -- not to mention all the kids he helped over the years,” said Hodge.

Besides a surprise party, what else do you give a 90-year-old Kiwanian?

Awards with benefits

The evening’s surprise honors for Hereford included a J. Mercer Barnett Fellowship from the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville, benefiting the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, and a Griebel Award from Hereford’s family, benefiting the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville’s Foundation.

Assisting with the honors were Alabama District Governor Colean Black and Division 1 Lieutenant Governor Paul Artis. Several Hereford family members attended, along with District Secretary Pat Manasco and Kiwanis Kourier Editor Patrice Stewart.

Hereford is a long-time resident of Madison County. He and his twin brother were born in April 1921 and lived in Gurley on property still owned by the family.

Governor Black noted Hereford’s years of Kiwanis service.

“He joined Kiwanis in November 1960 and has been an active and faithful member since then, accumulating over 30 years’ perfect attendance.”

He served as president of the club in 1974 and was on the board of directors for nine of the first 18 years that he was a member.

For his outstanding service to Kiwanis, he was made a George F. Hixson Fellow of the Kiwanis International Foundation.

“The Kiwanis Club of Valley recognizes Marshall Lane for 59 years’ perfect attendance. See Page 12.”

In his early days, he chaired the Kiwanis Follies in a production of “The Pajama Game,” in which many city leaders of the day played roles, resulting in a successful fundraiser.

YMCA camp, scholarships

Later on, he organized fundraising activities for the YMCA camp at Guntersville that Kiwanis of Huntsville supported.

He chaired committees for the club’s school patrol project and farm scholarships several years ago and has been active in Pancake Day and Angel Tree support and much more for years.

“I’ve enjoyed it,” Hereford told his fellow members. “And it’s pretty good to celebrate 50 years with the club and my 90th birthday.”

Last November, he and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

“My wife Madelyn called to invite him to join,” Madelyn Hereford told the club. “Clark has enjoyed the mission of this club, and I appreciate you sharing it with him.”
Alabama Key Club raises $54,000 in 1 year to help build a hospital

Alabama Key Club raised more than $54,000 in the past year for “Keeping Promises,” its District Project.

The amount raised was an all-time record, surpassing last year’s previous record of $31,000.

Immediate Past Key Club Governor Shirin Torabinejad was elated as she addressed Key Clubbers attending the 59th annual District Convention in Mobile March 25-27.

“I wasn’t sure if we could reach our goal of $50,000 that we set last April,” she said. “It took hard work and dedication from our board members, faculty advisers and Key Clubbers; I am so proud of Alabama Key Club.”

“Keeping Promises” is a five-year campaign to build a new Children’s Hospital in Birmingham. The current Children’s Hospital is 100 years old this year, and it is ranked as the seventh leading pediatric center (out of 150 hospitals for children) in the United States.

$150,000 pledged in 2008

In January 2008, the Alabama Key Club District Board made a pledge to raise $150,000 over the next five years; it was the only pledge of its kind by a high school organization.

The new children’s hospital is being built directly north of the current facility and is scheduled to open in August 2012. It will be called The Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children (the Russell family donated $25 million). The new hospital, which will cost more than $454 million, will open as the No. 1 pediatric center in the country.

Alabama Key Club made “Keeping Promises” its District Project and raised $5,000 in its first half year, $17,000 in 2008-2009 and $31,000 in 2009-2010. Since its inception the Key Club District Project has amassed over $107,000, with 16 months remaining to reach the goal.

Alabama District Key Club Adult Children’s Hospital Liaison Bob Palys said, “I am so proud of our young adults. They know that Children’s Hospital serves all 67 Alabama counties and all 50 states. Our Key Clubbers realize that they are helping children now and in the future; they are helping their children and their children’s children.”

When the new hospital opens, two rooms will be permanently named for the K-Family: one room will be the Alabama District Key Club Robert L. Bottsford Teen Room, and another will be called the Alabama District Key Club PICU Waiting Room.

“For the next 100 years, the K-Family will be associated with Children’s Hospital,” Palys said.

During the Key Club convention, members and clubs brought in banks full of coins and bills. On Saturday night, Key Clubs lined up to present checks to the District Project, with about 45 clubs participating in the gift-giving.

Student writes cookbook

Sixteen clubs made total contributions of at least $1,000 each; Governor Shirin raised more than $5,000 herself, while Lt. Governor Ashley Smith wrote a cookbook that brought in $4,500. “These young adults are incredible,” said Palys. “I never underestimate what a Key Clubber can do; they are world changers.”

When the new Key Club governor, Jeremiah Stone from Tuscaloosa County High School, trains his board, they will determine what the District Project for 2011-2012 will be. He said, “We have not reached our goal; wouldn’t it be something if we could raise $60,000 this year?”

Alabama District Key Club would appreciate help from Alabama Kiwanis or any part of the Alabama K-Family.

Decatur Kiwanis scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Decatur knows how to turn pancakes into scholarship dollars. Pancake Day is the last Saturday in February each year, and the club recognized its three scholarship recipients in May. Each year, the club gives a $1,000 college scholarship to each of three graduating seniors. This year’s honorees are, from left, Sarah Catherine Woller of Decatur High School, Joey Carter of Austin High School and Haley Smith of Decatur Heritage Christian Academy. Many community organizations and efforts also receive money made by flipping pancakes.

Clubs: Send officer data

Pat Manasco, the Alabama District’s executive, wants clubs to notify her by July 15 of officers elected to serve in 2011-12.

List the officers who will take over Oct. 1, along with addresses, phones and e-mails for the president and secretary. Her e-mail is alkiwidistsec85@yahoo.com. Also send this information to Kiwanis International.
Mid-winter Conference
Photos by Patrice Stewart

Remember your annual gift of $5 per club member to the Kiwanis International Foundation
Plan to attend the Alabama District Convention in Andalusia Aug. 12-14

Mid-winter Conference

Photos by Patrice Stewart
Mid-winter Conference

Photos by Patrice Stewart

Support Reading Is Fundamental with books, readers and donations
Mid-winter Conference

Photos by Patrice Stewart

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

Past Kiwanis Governor, Salvation Army Brigadier

Luther Smith, a past Alabama Kiwanis governor, died Feb. 9, 2011, at the age of 96 after battling pneumonia.

He had also served as president of the Birmingham Kiwanis Club, the largest in the world. He had been a member of Kiwanis clubs in seven states over 50 years, with 31 years of perfect attendance.

He attended nearly every Kiwanis International Convention (as well as those in the state). Because his Fourth of July birthday usually fell near convention time, his fellow Kiwanians often helped mark the occasion, whether in Las Vegas, Montreal or Nashville.

Smith, who was commissioned as a Salvation Army Officer in 1936, led the Birmingham area division of the Salvation Army from 1971 until 1979.

He was presented the Founder’s Award -- the Salvation Army’s highest honor -- in 2010. He also received its William Booth Award and Exceptional Service Award.

Smith still worked about three days a week, keeping an office downtown and representing the Salvation Army at various projects and events. He was easy to spot in his dark blue officer’s uniform – and could fit in the same one he wore when he started his career in 1936.

‘Doing the Most Good’

Since then, he had devoted his life to the Salvation Army mission of “Doing the Most Good.” He served in Texas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington, D.C., and Mexico City before coming to Birmingham in 1971. He was especially known for his ministry to the sick and hurting.

Smith served aboard in leadership roles in international disaster relief work after hurricanes ravaged Trujillo and Honduras and after an earthquake killed 3,000 in Guatemala. He also led work in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, as well as in southern Florida after Hurricane Andrew.

He was a chaplain and active member of the Civil Air Patrol for over 50 years and a loaned executive for United Way. He was selected one of 60 Olympic torch bearers in 1996 and, at 81, ran the whole route.

He received the Andrew Gerow Hodges Service Award given by Kiwanis for exceptional volunteer service within the Birmingham community, as well as the Richard Arrington Lifetime Achievement Award given by Operation New Birmingham for his leadership.

Smith grew up in Anniston, where through the Salvation Army he met Jewell Lewis, who became his first wife in 1939. After her death in 2002, he didn’t like being single, so in 2003 he married Esther Washburn, who had also been a Salvation Army officer and a family friend.

She survives him, along with a son, Robert, of Traverse City, Mich., and two nieces.

Visitation was held at Johns-Ridout’s Funeral Home Feb. 11, and the funeral service was Feb. 12 at 11 a.m. at Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

Smith’s death was a great loss for Kiwanis, the Salvation Army, his community of Birmingham and more.

Birmingham Kiwanis Club member Tom Scarritt, editor of The Birmingham News, wrote a Feb. 13 column challenging everyone to “live Smith’s vision.”

Smith was known not just as a Salvation Army man, but a community man. “He showed that in his deep involvement with the community in which he lived for four decades,” Scarritt said. “He served as a chairman of the Community Affairs Committee of Operation New Birmingham, as a member of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, as president of the Birmingham Kiwanis Club and was a founding member of the Birmingham Race Relations Committee.”

“In his Kiwanis role, he was well known across that international organization as a positive and energetic ambassador for Birmingham.

Personal involvement

“His civic involvement was more personal than institutional. A familiar figure on the downtown streets and at community events, he made everyone he met feel like a close friend. He was not just a listener, but a great talker as well.”

Scarritt wrote that “Brigadier Smith will be remembered for his infinite cheerfulness and compassion. He will be remembered as an adventurer, who rode motorcycles well into his 80s, earned a private pilot’s license and in his retirement years walked the Great Wall of China and climbed part way up one of the pyramids of Egypt.”

He said the best way to honor Smith is not only to celebrate his past and remember his high expectations, but also to live his vision.

“If we all could be a little more like Brigadier Luther Smith, in our actions today and our optimism about tomorrow, this community could be as good as he envisioned it,” Scarritt wrote.

Bob Bottsford

Alabama District Key Club Administrator

The Alabama District’s Key Club Administrator, Robert Louis Bottsford of McCalla, died Feb. 20, 2011. He was 68.

As a member of the Bessemer Kiwanis Club, Bottsford served as club president, club secretary, lieutenant governor and Alabama District secretary. He sold pecans, worked at golf tournaments and helped on pancake days.

An Auburn University graduate, he was a lifelong educator, counselor and mentor for Alabama’s youth. Through the years he served as a teacher and student counselor at Bessemer High School, Jess Lanier High School and...
Plan to attend the Alabama District Convention in Andalusia Aug. 12-14
Lee Lester
Past president, Alexander City Kiwanis Club

Allen Lee Lester, who earned “Distinguished” honors for his service as Division 10 lieutenant governor and as president of the Alexander City Kiwanis Club, died May 7, 2011, at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery following a short illness.

A resident of Jackson’s Gap, he was 75. A Kiwanian since 1989, he had also served the Alexander City Kiwanis Club as a longtime board member and was chosen its Kiwanian of the Year. He ran for treasurer of the Alabama District in 2009.

His wife of 52 years, Betty, has been secretary of the Alex City Kiwanis Club for more than 15 years. They were thought of as the club’s “Mr. and Mrs. Kiwanis.”

He earned his undergraduate degree from Jacksonville State University and his law degree from Jones School of Law in Montgomery. For 23 years he worked as a corporate attorney for Equifax in Atlanta.

After retiring there, he was a broker and Realtor for Russell Lands. He was a member of the Association of Realtors and served on the Alexander City Housing Authority Board.

Along with his wife, Betty Wallis Lester of Jackson’s Gap, he is survived by two sons, two grandchildren and one brother.

A memorial service was held May 11, 2011, at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Alexander City. The family received friends there from noon to 2 p.m. Radney Funeral Home was in charge.

Memorial contributions can be made to First United Methodist Church, 310 Green Street, Alexander City, AL 35010, where he was an active member and had served on the Administrative Board.

Charles Gillespie
Charter member, South Huntsville Kiwanis Club

Charles S. Gillespie, a charter member of the South Huntsville Kiwanis Club, died March 31, 2011. The Huntsville resident was 88.

Mr. Gillespie worked with Dr. Wernher von Braun and retired as a chief equipment specialist, Test Division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration after 29 years of service. He worked at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center for the past 27 years. He also was an elder at First Presbyterian Church.

Gordon Isbell Jr.
Past president, Gadsden Kiwanis Club

Gordon Roswell Isbell Jr., a past president of the Gadsden Kiwanis Club with 55 years’ perfect attendance, died March 19, 2011, at the age of 87.

He served as club president in 1970-71 and was known as the top seller of tickets for the club’s annual Pancake Day for many years.

He was honored by Kiwanis with the George F. Hixson Award, J. Mercer Barnett Fellow Award, Key Club Hoyt W. Lee Award, Barnett-Isbell Friendship Award and Gordon R. Isbell Jr. Doer Award.

Gadsden Kiwanis Club Past President Philip Carr said Isbell always encouraged club members “to be doers. If you needed something done you could call Gordon, and Gordon was going to help you go do it.”

Isbell also was known for making early morning calls to wish friends a happy birthday. He kept a notebook with a couple of thousand names of people he would call on birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions.

He owned Isbell & Hallmark Furniture in Gadsden, founded in 1906, before retiring in 2005.

Isbell attended Auburn University and was a lifetime supporter, as well as a member of the Gadsden Quarterback Club, Attalla Masonic Lodge and United Givers Fund board. He received the Sigma Nu John M. Ward Outstanding Alumni Award.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Iris Johnson Isbell, three sons, seven grandchildren and one sister.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. March 27 at First United Methodist Church of Attalla, with Collier Butler Funeral Home in charge. Honorary pallbearers included Gadsden Kiwanis Club members.

Memorial donations may be made to the Gordon R. Isbell Jr. Scholarship Fund, c/o The Gadsden Kiwanis Club, P. O. Box 232, Gadsden, AL 35902.