Florence meeting July 23-25

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Get ready to jazz it up in Florence July 23-25 when the Alabama District of Kiwanis holds its state convention there during the annual W.C. Handy Music Festival.

In fact, the jazz entertainment at the Friday evening Kiwanis barbecue at River Heritage Park is on the official list of Handy Music Festival events.

On Friday, a golf outing, board meetings and a 6 p.m. barbecue picnic with jazz music are planned.

Saturday will include educational sessions, interclub luncheon, afternoon business meeting with vote taken on candidates, and evening reception and governor’s banquet, with entertainment for kids.

Saturday plans from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for spouses and guests include a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Rosenbaum House, Helen Keller home and Alabama Music Hall of Fame, with a Tennessee River view and striking outdoor and indoor pools are part of the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, the convention site.

(See FLORENCE, page 10)

Happy 96th!

Luther Smith, a former Alabama District Governor who is a brigadier in the Salvation Army, often celebrates his birthday while attending Kiwanis International conventions. “On to Las Vegas” chairwoman Pat Manasco made sure he got candles on his dessert at the District Dinner at Red Rock Casino, where Alabamians sang “Happy Birthday” to him. The Birmingham News featured him in a front-page story on July 4, his 96th birthday.

Announcement in Vegas: Kiwanis to target tetanus

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

Kiwanians attending the 95th International Convention in Las Vegas June 24-27 heard about how they can change the world by taking aim at tetanus.

They were complimented on their service work by Colin Powell and entertained by Jay Leno, “The Jersey Boys,” cast, Cirque du Soleil and others in the neon city.

And they hit the jackpot and took home plenty of ideas after being enlightened about how to operate their clubs and score new members. Delegates also elected new officers and trustees and approved several amendments.

For its new Worldwide Service Project, Kiwanis International is joining with UNICEF to save the lives of babies and their mothers by eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus (MNT), a disease that kills an estimated 60,000 newborns and 30,000 mothers each year.

(See LAS VEGAS, page 10)
Don’t relax on membership

While the summer months are usually a time to relax and take some time off, we must stay active if we are to achieve the goals set for this administrative year. We must continue to work toward being “Distinguished,” as well as to recruit new members and stay focused on making our clubs the very best they can be.

We have been successful in building two new clubs in June and have plans for two more this year, prior to Oct. 1. We have chartered clubs in Rogersville and in Double Springs. Are you inviting your friends and neighbors to visit your club? Summer is an excellent time to have a special program and invite potential new members to visit.

Come to Florence

We completed our Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas on June 26. Some 100-plus Alabama Kiwanians attended the convention and had a great time.

We were inspired and motivated through outstanding speakers and training sessions, and it was also a good time to establish new friendships with Kiwanians from around the world.

The Alabama District Convention in Florence will be here before you know it! I hope to see you there July 23-25 at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Convention Center. Registration information is available in this edition and online, and you can register online.

Alabama’s Aiken meets Colin Powell backstage

Alabama District Governor George Aiken has been pushing for new clubs, and he got a reward in Las Vegas.

He and a few other district governors with new clubs built recently got invited backstage to shake hands with Colin Powell, keynote speaker at the opening session of the Kiwanis International convention.

Aiken thanked David Beasley of Florence, Bob Palys of Cullman and others for diligence in building the two new clubs in Rogersville and Double Springs.

KI president Paul Palazzolo had already participated in charter events for the new Alabama clubs.
Charter members and officers of the new Kiwanis Club of Rogersville received a banner and other club gifts at their charter ceremony June 18. Guests pictured with them included Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo of Springfield, Ill., and Division 2 Lt. Gov. David Beasley of Florence.

Rogersville club chartered

The charter ceremony for the new Kiwanis Club of Rogersville, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Florence, was held June 18 at noon at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center.

Kiwanis 2009-10 International President Paul Palazzolo of Springfield, Ill., made another trip to Alabama to take part in the charter ceremony and also tour the Boy Scout permanent tent project area Kiwanians have been working on.

The new Rogersville club will meet Tuesdays at noon at Stanfield Restaurant.

Jim Stansell, the new club’s president, accepted the charter.

Other officers for Rogersville include Danny Cook, president-elect; Melissa Sides, vice president; Leslie Barksdale, secretary; and Jennifer Hallmark, treasurer.

Its board members include B.J. Tully, Jerry Carroll, Ken Jones, Leigh Poss and Jeff Owens.

Also receiving charter member certificates were Brandi Angus, Danny English, Lisa Haraway, Terry Holden, Bob Ingram, Wilson Jenkins, Morris Lentz, Ray Lecroix, Johnny Masoner, Melissa Owens, David Potts, Cheryl Shelton, Angie Stansell, Barry Stewart, George Thompson, Jesse Thompson and Tim Williams.

Presiding over the program for the charter luncheon were Bert Bock, president of the sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Florence, and Joel Williams, past Kiwanis International trustee.

Alabama District Governor George Aiken presented a club banner and other gifts to the new club. Bock presented a flag, and Pat Burney, the Florence club’s secretary, gave them a secretary’s kit.

Also participating were David Beasley, lieutenant governor for Division 2; Ernest Hulsey, immediate past district governor; and Colean Bailey, governor-elect.

The invocation and benediction were given by the Rev. Irving Rudolph and Andrew Betterson.

Palazzolo made some remarks after he presented the charter and he and Beasley gave out charter member certificates.

KI Webinars: Learn from your home

Remember that Kiwanis International offers many educational opportunities that you can access from your own home or office.

Check the Kiwanis Internet site for monthly sessions such as these.

Reserve your seat for online Webinar sessions (all listed in Eastern Daylight Time) and improve your Kiwanis skills without ever leaving home.

■ Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 8 p.m. EDT

“ReMember Campaign”: Before deleting inactive club members, make an honest effort to “ReMember” them. The intent of the campaign is to re-involve the individual in the fellowship and service of the club. KI President, Paul Palazzolo, will review a checklist and guidelines to boost retention in your Kiwanis club.

■ Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 3 p.m., EDT

“Developing Your Kiwanis Calendar” — The Critical Path to Success”: Remember, no one plans to fail, they fail to plan. Create a strategic plan of action and capture it in a calendar to follow throughout the year to keep you on track to meet your goals.

■ Monday, July 19, 2010, 3 p.m., EDT

“Habits of Successful Clubs”: A quality club with outstanding projects and valuable member experiences must be planned. Learn ten simple habits of successful clubs.
International Convention
Photos by Patrice Stewart
What happened in Vegas
Photos by Patrice Stewart

See you at the Alabama District’s summer convention in Florence July 23-25!
Honor someone in your club with a $500 RIF Barnett award, and help children, too.
KI president visits Scout camp where Florence club is helping to build tents

Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo visited Camp Westmoreland in Killen on June 18 to see the work that the Florence Kiwanis Club has done at the Scout camp.

He toured the camp before heading to the lunchtime charter ceremony in Florence for the new Kiwanis Club of Rogersville.

The Florence Kiwanis Club and helpers have built 12 tent frames and platforms, with a goal to complete 50 of the structures that will make using the camp easier for Scouts, parents and the community.

Club officers, Scout officials and state Kiwanis officers were also at the camp to welcome Palazzolo.

“We are grateful for the assistance that our local Kiwanians give to Scouting and to Camp Westmoreland,” said Herbert Plyler, chairman of the Westmoreland District of the Greater Alabama Council.

“KI President Paul Palazzolo and Alabama Kiwanis Governor George Aiken were quite impressed with the permanent tent project, which was quite an accomplishment,” said Bert Bock, president of the Kiwanis Club of Florence.

“Congratulations to all of you who helped to make this project possible.

Westmoreland District is operated by the Greater Alabama Council, which is headquartered in Birmingham. It was opened in 1929 and is one of the oldest operating Boy Scout camps in the country.

“KI President Paul Palazzolo and Alabama Kiwanis Governor George Aiken were quite impressed with the permanent tent project, which was quite an accomplishment,” said Bert Bock, president of the Kiwanis Club of Florence.

“Congratulations to all of you who helped to make this project possible.

Deadline for the fall issue of the Kiwanis Kourier is Sept. 20, 2010
Kiwanis world meeting next summer in Geneva

It’s also a chance to see Switzerland, rest of Europe

One international convention just ended, and a year of planning for the next one has already begun.

Start planning now to take in the scenery of Geneva, Switzerland, July 7-10 during the 96th annual Kiwanis International Convention in 2011.

Don’t miss this chance for an interesting convention and a time to make new Kiwanis friends while reconnecting with old friends.

In addition to Kiwanis programming, speakers, workshops, business and entertainment, you can take side trips to nearby countries such as Austria and Germany before or after the convention.

Kiwanis excursions and tours right in Geneva or within a short coach ride will take you to see castles, quaint villages, waterfalls, lakes, vineyards, cable-car rides to the tops of mountains, train rides, tours of chocolate and cheese factories, and riverboat cruises.

To explore more of Europe, take a tour to Paris, Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam, Italy, Austria and Germany.


Calling all clubs: Register delegates for July 23-25 Florence convention

This is the official call to all clubs in good standing in the Alabama District to attend the 2010 District Convention to be held in Florence, Alabama, on Friday through Sunday, July 23-25, 2010.

The events of the convention will be held around the Marriott Hotel & Spa. Registration forms and agenda for the weekend are now on the District web site (Alabama.kiwanis.org).

The Delegate Assembly will be held on Saturday and will include election of a new District Treasurer. Bob Palys and Wayne Sisk are two of the candidates for that position. Current District Treasurer Tammy Driskill will be elected to Governor-elect, and the current Governor-elect, Colean Bailey, will be elected to Governor for the 2010-2011 Kiwanis year.

At this time there is one amendment to the official bylaws to be proposed and considered for action. This involves the redefining of the duties of the District Treasurer. (June 23 was the deadline for submitting proposed amendments or resolutions to the District Office).

Every club in good standing is entitled to three voting delegates who must be members in good standing of their club. Current and past lieutenant governors, current officers of the District board and past governors are delegates at large and do not count against the club’s three delegates.

- David Allison
- District Secretary,
- Alabama District of Kiwanis International

For more information about the convention and candidates, see the story that begins on Page 1 and the preliminary schedule at right.

92nd Alabama District Convention
July 23–25, 2010

Hosted by Florence and Sheffield Kiwanis Clubs. Club contact: 256-483-3571 / 256-386-4750 fax.

Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa
800 Cox Creek Parkway South, Florence, AL 35630, 256-246-3600 or 1-800-228-2100;
Group Booking Code by July 12: ADKADKA

Preliminary agenda
Friday, July 23
9 a.m. — Golf, Robert Trent Jones
12-6:30 p.m. — Registration, hotel lobby
12-until — Hospitality room, hotel
12-5 — Board meetings, hotel
6:30 — Dinner and entertainment, River Heritage Park

Saturday, July 24
7 a.m. — 12:15 p.m. — Registration, Convention Center
7 — Officers meeting and RIF, Convention Center
8 — Hospitality room
8 — Start of Silent Auction
8 — Breakfast buffet meeting, Convention Center
9-1 — Area tour of three sites
9-11:30 — Ticket sales for Pickwick Belle, Convention Center
9:15 — General Session, Convention Center, 10:15 — Work Sessions (5), Convention Center
11:15 — Work Sessions (5), Convention Center
12:15 p.m. — Inter Club Luncheon, Convention Center
6-7 — Kids’ fun night, hospitality room
6 — Reception, Convention Center
7 — Dinner, Convention Center

Sunday, July 25
8:30 a.m. — Memorial Breakfast, hotel
9:30 — Board meeting, hotel
1-4 p.m. — Pickwick Belle river cruise, Florence Marina
“Take the Lead,” as these T-shirts proclaim, was the theme for the spring 2010 Key Leader weekend. The Kiwanis-sponsored event, with Key Leader coordinator Tammy Driskill overseeing it, was held at the 4-H Center in Columbiana. Help is being sought for the Key Leader efforts for the 2010-2011 year, so if you can work with this program, contact district officers Tammy Driskill or Colean Bailey or the District office in Birmingham.

Updated website offers resources


Brian Rodgers recently updated this website, in addition to his duties as lieutenant governor of Division 5.

He is also the father of three. The newest arrival, Laura, was born June 7, joining brother Jack and sister Maggie.

Brian and wife Holly probably have a lot of K-Kids, Builders Clubs and Key Clubs in their future.

An asset to recruiting

The website should provide a Kiwanis presence that will be an asset to recruiting and retaining quality members, Rodgers said.

“There are a number of great growth tools under Club Resources, so take full advantage of these,” he added.

The Alabama District Kiwanis Kourier quarterly newsletter can be easily found.

Also, the District Twitter Feed is available under “News,” and clubs and divisions can submit stories for publishing in the District News section.

There is contact information for District leaders and information on the Eliminate Project, Kiwanis’ new worldwide commitment to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus.

The Alabama Kiwanis website “is looking great,” according to Governor George Aiken. He encourages all Kiwanians to go there to see convention information and schedules, maps of the hotel and other useful information.

See you at the Alabama District’s summer convention in Florence July 23-25!
Las Vegas  
(From Page 1)

“Kiwanis believes that no baby or mother should have to suffer the devastating effects of MNT,” said 2010-11 Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo. “Kiwanis will mobilize its nearly 600,000 family members to become tireless advocates for these children and raise needed funds to defeat this deadly disease.”

For $1.80 for a series of three shots, you can save a life, so start planning those peanut, pecan and pancake sales now with a lifesaving focus: the Eliminate Project (see more on Page 11).

Colin Powell, a four-star general who was chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and U.S. Secretary of State, talked about the importance of Kiwanis programs for youth, along with America’s Promise: the Alliance for Youth, a program he helped create with America’s Promise.

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“I admire the focus you have placed on service and on health programs for the children of the world,” said the general. “And we want children to learn the value of volunteering early, so that value will carry on through life.

Generations of positive experiences must be passed on, he said, “or they will go down the wrong path. You’ve got to give them positive places to go.”

Palazzolo gave his characteristics of a successful Kiwanis Club: service-oriented and fulfilling sponsorship obligations to younger generations but with plenty of fun and fellowship, too.

He also said it should use all techniques to communicate and develop relationships with all possible media while also putting time and dollars into development and training opportunities.

“Our lives are like books, and each important segment is like a chapter,” he said. He led up to the introduction of the new Worldwide Service Project by adding, “We have another chapter to write, so let’s get started.”

The incoming president of Kiwanis International is a retired Alaska fire marshal who is all fired up about Kiwanis as he prepares to lead.

“Syl” Neal, now a Valley, Auburn, Wash., Kiwanian.

“We’ll work harder to serve our local communities. We’ll kick off our new global campaign to protect children. And the world will take notice,” said Neal, whose term was officially approved in Las Vegas.

Alan Penn of the Breakfast Kiwanis Club of Medina, Ohio, became president-elect, while Tom DeJulio of the Kiwanis Club of Fordham, Bronx, N.Y., was elected vice president.

New trustees elected from the United States were Johnny Johnson, Kiwanis Club of East Cobb County, Ga.; Oscar E. Knight III, Kiwanis Club of La Mesa, Calif.; and Sue Petrisin, Kiwanis Club of East Lansing, Mich.

Other board members, including Pam Fleming of the Alabama District, will continue to serve terms they were elected to in previous years.

Two new trustees were elected to the International Board earlier this year. The European region elected Sjoerd R.J. Timmermans, Kiwanis Club of Den Haag, the Netherlands, during a convention in Italy in May. The Asian-Pacific region chose Wen-Pin Su, Kiwanis Club of Tainan, Taiwan, during a convention in Taipei in March.

The House of Delegates at the convention in Las Vegas considered 14 proposed amendments.

They voted to eliminate unintended contradictions regarding discipline of KI officers and allow the KI board to bar someone removed from office from filling other offices or appointments.

They also voted to return the title of the top staff position in Kiwanis International to “executive director,” to make more effective use of electronic methods of communications and information distribution and to accommodate districts that wish to have an additional year of training and orientation for the person who eventually will serve as governor.

Approved as amended were resolutions to change the designation for regions from numbers to names and to require criminal history background checks for all incumbents and candidates for International Office and for all offices leading to district governor. See more about these business transactions on the Kiwanis International website.

Florence convention  
(From Page 1)

box lunch, all for $25.

On Sunday, after the morning memorial service and board meetings, a new feature has been added: a Tennessee River cruise on the Pickwick Belle with lock-through at Wilson Dam. Tickets can be bought at the convention Saturday for $25.99 and $15.99 (ages 2-11), plus tax.

Convention registrations are now due in, so check the information on the Kiwanis website, pay your fees and call the hotel about a room, if you haven’t already done so. See more convention information on Page 8.

This year two candidates, Bob Palys and Wayne Sisk, are running for the office of treasurer, which will lead to the governor’s position in two years.

Tammy Driskill of Gadsden currently holds the treasurer position and is in line after Colean Bailey of Birmingham to move up to governor-elect and then governor.

Cullman Kiwanis Club member Bob Palys earned “Distinguished” recognition as its president and secretary and as lieutenant governor. Palys, 61, has served as Holly Pond High Key Club adviser for 19 years, along with several other posts.

A retired teacher and coach, he teaches part-time at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

Sisk works as Alagasco division superintendent in Anniston and is in his second term as Division 7 lieutenant governor. He has been a Kiwanis member since 2002, active in several cities where Alagasco transferred him.

He served as president of both Tuscaloosa and Northport Kiwanis clubs and then in Jasper was Division 3 lieutenant governor-elect before moving. Sisk, 45, is a former Key Clubber.

Your donations can help pay off the RIF office/warehouse in Opelika
60-cent shots save babies, moms
KI wants to raise $110 million to conquer deadly tetanus at birth

The Eliminate Project will protect mothers and babies from tetanus. UNICEF Ambassador and actor Tea Leoni revealed the new Kiwanis Worldwide Service Project during the opening session of the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas.

The Eliminate Project will tackle tetanus through immunizations. One shot costs 60 cents, and a series of three will help protect mothers and babies. Maternal/neonatal tetanus (MNT) is a disease that kills an estimated 60,000 newborns and 30,000 mothers each year.

MNT is easily prevented by a series of three vaccinations to women of childbearing age, costing about $1.80. “The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus” will raise $110 million over the next five years to fill the funding gap required to provide an estimated 387 million doses of the vaccine.

The Eliminate Project will deliver life-saving vaccines to the most vulnerable women and children in the world: those in remote and difficult to reach areas and conflict zones and those with little access to health care. “With Kiwanis by our side, we will be able to conquer maternal/neonatal tetanus,” said U.S. Fund for UNICEF president and chief executive officer Caryl Stern.

“I’ve seen how this disease devastates families. Infants suffer, while mothers are unable to comfort their babies. Kiwanis is providing the final push that will protect vulnerable women and their newborns,” said the president of UNICEF, which is at the forefront of efforts to reduce child mortality worldwide.

1 baby every 9 minutes
The majority of mothers and newborns dying of MNT live in 40 countries located in Africa and Southern and East Asia. The disease kills one baby every nine minutes. Its effects are excruciating — tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch. “As a mother of two children, I have known the great joy of welcoming a new life into this world. I couldn’t imagine watching my child suffer and die from a disease that is as easily preventable as MNT is,” said Leoni. “With this new partnership between Kiwanis and UNICEF, so many lives will be saved.”

The Eliminate Project also will create a path for other services, such as clean water, nutrition and other vaccines, to reach the world’s most vulnerable people.

In its last Worldwide Service Project, also partnering with UNICEF, Kiwanis helped stamp out IDD (iodine deficiency disorders), the leading cause of preventable mental impairment. Kiwanians raised and leveraged more than $100 million and changed lives in 103 nations by adding iodine to salt.

The number of households estimated to be consuming iodized salt has jumped from less than 20 percent in 1990 to more than 70 percent, and the effort has been heralded as one of the most successful health initiatives in the world.

Wanted: items for auction
Would you like to get your hands on Alabama and Auburn football tickets, hotel or condo vacations or travel packages, golf packages or concert tickets?

What about NASCAR items, jewelry, art, antiques, gift certificates to chain restaurants, shopping sprees, spa treatments, gift baskets, gasoline or autographed memorabilia?

Donate anything that you would like or enjoy, because others will want to buy those items, too.

Money raised from the silent and live auction items donated will be split 50/50 between Reading Is Fundamental and the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. The auction will be held July 24 during the District Convention in Florence.

Getting one or more items donated per club will make a big difference, according to chairman Gordon Ruggles.

You can bring or mail them to the following locations: Alabama District office, 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham, AL 35209; Gordon Ruggles, 200 Appleton Ave., Sheffield, AL 35660; or Jean Dean RIF Office, 1105 Fitzpatrick Ave., Opelika, AL 36801.

An acquisition form and more information are available online on the District website. Donations go to the foundation, a non-profit, tax exempt foundation (501c[3]).

If you have questions, call Ruggles at 256-248-0443 or e-mail gruggles@mscoinc.com, or Cathy Gafford, 334-749-5631 or e-mail jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net.

RIF schedules workdays, needs Kiwanis volunteers
Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental will distribute more than 75,000 books to at-risk children in 2010-11 and needs volunteer help all year round!

Call Cathy Gafford, 334-749-5631 or e-mail jeandeanrif@bellsouth.net, for dates when books will be labeled or shipped out.

Big dates include:

■ Saturday, Aug. 28: Statewide RIF/K-Family Service Day helps kick off the RIF year each August. The cooks at Pepperell Methodist will again prepare an all-you-can-eat lunch from noon to 1 p.m. for $13. Just make your lunch reservation with Cathy Gafford by Aug. 23 and plan to come work in the RIF warehouse from 9 to 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 to 5 p.m.

■ Saturday, Sept. 11: Run to Read fundraiser and work day

■ Saturday, Oct. 23: National Make a Difference Day (and Oct. 24 afternoon, too)

If you’ve got the time, Gafford’s got the work at the RIF building, 1105 Fitzpatrick Ave. in Opelika.