



Alabama

Kiwaniis Kourier

Winter 2013

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13 pages

Riley, Palazzolo to speak at conference in Prattville



Rebecca Riley

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwaniis Kourier Editor

Mid-winter Conference speakers for the Alabama District of Kiwanis will include Paul Palazzolo of Springfield, Ill., a past president of Kiwanis International, and Rebecca Riley of Homewood, the Alabama teen currently serving as president of Key Club International.

Alabama Kiwanians will gather in

Prattville for the Mid-winter Conference Feb. 22-23 at the Legends Marriott hotel and conference center.

“We hope that every club can be represented, and that current and future leaders attend to learn skills that will strengthen your club and increase its community impact,” said Kiwanis Governor Wayne Sisk.

Three board meetings are planned

(See PRATTVILLE, Page 7)



Paul Palazzolo

KI will meet in Vancouver in June

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwaniis Kourier Editor

It's time to start making plans to be in Vancouver, Canada, the last week of June for the 98th annual Kiwanis International Convention.

The official dates are listed as June 27-30, but registration will get under way June 26, along with some training and Key Leader events and a late afternoon reception in the exhibition hall.

Workshops, general sessions and exhibits will be held in the Vancouver Convention Centre at 1055 Canada Place.

Plans for Alabama Kiwanians heading to Vancouver include a district dinner buffet and cruise with entertainment aboard a harbor sightseeing boat and rooms at the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harborside, a Marriott overlooking the harbor that KI has designated for the Alabama District.

The Convention Centre where meetings will be

(See VANCOUVER, Page 3)



Kiwanis CONVENTION



Alabama District Governor-elect Bill Phillips and wife, Jean, got a jump on planning for the June 2013 Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, Canada, when they checked out this display in the exhibition hall at the New Orleans convention.

The summer 2013 District Convention is scheduled July 26-28 in Huntsville

Reach out—and tell about it

Dear Alabama Kiwanians,

Happy New Year to everyone across the great state of Alabama. I surely hope your holidays were filled with joy and thanksgiving, and I wish you all a prosperous and rewarding year ahead.

As we journey along the Kiwanis path to success, we must focus on several things at once. Your servant leadership is vital to the success of your club, your division and your district.

Many times we have more needs to fill than we have resources. This may be true of other areas in our lives, but in Kiwanis it can often be solved through membership growth, service projects and fundraising. Please let me and others know what you are doing in these areas. One doesn't have to look far to find a Kiwanian serving a desperate need in someone's life or helping a young person develop into a valuable member of society.

Fundraising, fellowship

During this time of the year, most clubs are gearing up for their annual fundraising activities where members pound the pavement selling tickets and roll up their sleeves to put into action a very well-planned event. The club's board of directors then takes that money which is raised and gives unselfishly to causes in their communities.

That makes me proud to be a Kiwanian. These events are no easy task, but it's such fun getting to fel-

From the Governor

By Wayne Sisk



lowship with one another for such great causes. Best wishes to you all in meeting the goals you have set this year.

I hope that we all can see the enormous needs not only at home but around the nation and around the globe. There have been some great tragedies to hit our fellow men and women over the past several months. It is more important now than ever before that we pray for those that have been affected by storms and violence.

If there is an opportunity for you to reach out, please do so. I know that it will be greatly appreciated. We have much to be thankful for, and the Kiwanis spirit is alive and well. Spread that to someone in need today.

District challenges

As a district we face many challenges, many of which are financial. Times have been tough on us all, which make cutbacks necessary to make

ends meet. This is also seen in our state and national budgets, which leads me to remind everyone that one of our dearest service projects, Reading Is Fundamental, is struggling to operate because of a loss of nearly \$160,000 in grants this year.

Cathy Gafford and her volunteers at the Jean Dean RIF Program are looking under every stone for ways to subsidize this shortfall, but let's face it, that's a chunk of change.

This is the Alabama District's signature service project and deserves our attention. About 25,000 Head Start students across Alabama are touched by this program every year through receiving three free books given to them by Kiwanians and other volunteers.

If you have never taken the time to go read these books to the little ones, make plans to do this soon. It is a very rewarding experience for us, but the children look forward to you being there as well.

As RIF faces financial challenges, please consider upping the amount your clubs give to the RIF program. In most cases, the amount our clubs have given in the past each year doesn't come close to covering the cost of the books. Please be generous this year as you support the RIF program, as these are the only books some of these children will have at home and literacy is so important to their future success.

Saving lives

Every day, the Eliminate program is saving lives from maternal/neonatal tetanus because of your donations and support. Tammy Driskill, who was the district's governor for 2011-12, is now proudly serving as our Alabama District Eliminate campaign coordinator, and she is doing a wonderful job. This is no easy task, and she needs all our help.

Before Kiwanis International can properly get the word out to have a successful financial campaign, Tammy needs more volunteers. If you desire to make a difference in the lives of 129 million mothers and newborns, give Tammy a call and offer your time. We are looking for additional club coordi-

(See GOVERNOR, Page 10)

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Combat tetanus at winter and spring events

By **Tammy Driskill**

Eliminate Campaign Coordinator
and Past Governor

The first Worldwide Report Day for 2013 was held Jan. 16, with every district coordinator calling The Eliminate Project Chairman Randy DeLay to update district figures on numbers of model and 100K clubs, Zeller Fellows, major gifts and club coordinators.

The Eliminate Project will be the topic of several meetings and workshops during our District Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 22-23. Eliminate team members will have a 7:30 a.m. coffee on Saturday.

Our spring training and rally for the Eliminate Project is scheduled for March 9 in Birmingham, with the

ELIMINATE

Kiwanis eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus



location and agenda to be announced closer to that date.

More club coordinators are needed, so I encourage you to find someone in your club or division to join us and become part of this amazing team.

We will have our first big District-wide Eliminate fundraiser on April 10 at the opening night of the Birmingham Barons new ball park. Past Governor Colean Black will have details and hopefully tickets available

at the Mid-winter Conference. Space is limited, so buy your tickets early. Opening night is a once-in-a-lifetime event, and you won't want to miss it!

Disasters around the world are showing the importance of the Eliminate Project and our fundraising to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus.

It has been three years since Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. This tragedy took the lives of many Haitians and left others exposed to and at risk of tetanus.

Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio will travel to Haiti in April to witness tetanus vaccination efforts. He will visit the Birmingham and Montgomery clubs after his Haiti visit.

Vancouver (From Page 1)

held is "less than eight minutes of flat walking" from the Alabama District's hotel, said Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco, who went with Kiwanians from other districts to Vancouver for an advance site visit in mid-January.

"The convention center is right on the harbor, and there are sidewalk cafes where you can sit and look out over the harbor — it's beautiful," she said.

District dinner cruise

The 2½-hour harbor cruise on a paddlewheeler for the district dinner will leave from right beside the Convention Centre. The cost is \$80 per person, and the buffet will include steak and salmon.

"Everyone who wants a place on the boat for the dinner cruise should get their reservations in early," Manasco said, because only 40 spaces are available. Kiwanians from Iowa will be aboard, too.

Alabama Kiwanians who register early for the KI convention could win the dinner cruise as a prize. "Everybody who has registered by our Mid-winter Conference in Prattville will get their names into a drawing for a free District Dinner cruise and meal," Manasco said.

Vancouver schedule

The opening convention session will be Thursday morning, June 27, followed by afternoon workshops and evening district dinners. June 28 will include morning workshops and the afternoon business session for elections, amendments and resolutions. The closing general session will be Saturday afternoon, following morning workshops.

Several events requiring special tickets are scheduled throughout the week, including leadership and Eliminate luncheons, a faith and humor breakfast, a dinner for Key Club and Circle K alumni, and a superstar concert June 28 by The Midtown Men, who sang in the original Broadway cast of "Jersey Boys."

You can register for the lowest fee, \$185 for Kiwanians and guests, until April 1. The fee goes up to \$235 until May 15, and after that it's on-site registration at \$250 each. Each club can have two delegates seated in the business session if they fill out the delegate forms in advance.

Complete details on registration, hotels, agenda and more are on the KI convention site online. Go to www.kiwanisone.org/vancouver.

Area attractions

Manasco recommends that those attending plan to take in some of the scenic beauty of British Columbia with day trips before and after the convention activities.

"I plan to go to Victoria Island on a ferry and see Butchart Gardens, and perhaps a group of us can go together," she said. She would also like to make a train day trip to see the Canadian Rockies.

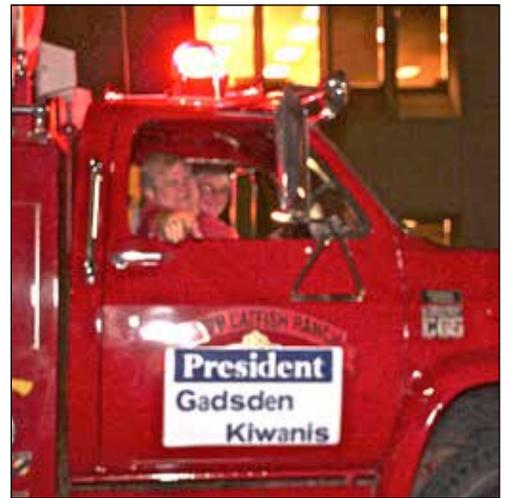
Whale-watching boat trips are available from Vancouver's harbor, too. "That's a big, funky whale on the Vancouver convention logo," Manasco said, "and there's a huge statue of a whale right by the Convention Centre. We might even see some whales at sunset on our dinner cruise."

Stanley Park "is beautiful, too, with totem poles and all kinds of natural areas," she said. The urban oasis has everything from botanical gardens and a sea wall for walking and biking to a miniature train and heated beach pool. Another scenic area near Vancouver is Whistler Mountain, which has a peak-to-peak gondola ride.

You can explore on your own or with area sightseeing operators or arrange a tour through Kiwanis, such as a North Shore tour including Grouse Mountain and Capilano Suspension Bridge, a coast rainforest adventure, a floatplane tour, city tours, and walking food and ghost tours of the Gastown district (see more information in KI President Tom DeJulio's column on Page 11).

Kiwanis is also booking a cruise to Alaska and several train trips, as well as special activities and tours for children and teens visiting Vancouver for the convention.

If you are still in Vancouver on July 1, you can celebrate Canada Day and see parades and fireworks.



'Let Your Light Shine' in Gadsden

The Kiwanis Club of Gadsden sponsored the city's Christmas parade at 6 p.m. Dec. 3. The event, held since the 1930s, this year featured Kiwanis president Basil Vice riding in a fire truck as parade grand marshal. Club member Glenda Selman served as chairwoman for the parade, which had "Oh, Let Your Light Shine" as its theme. The club requests a registration fee of \$50 for commercial entries and \$35 for noncommercial and individual entries (bands can participate at no cost and are not eligible for prizes). Several cash prizes were awarded to entries best showcasing the theme, sights and sounds of the holiday season. (Photos by Kevin Yates)

Key Club convention April 5-7

The 61st annual convention of Alabama District Key Club is scheduled at the Birmingham Marriott April 5-7.

"This convention is the most important event in which Key Clubs will participate this year," said George Price, Alabama District administrator for Key Clubs.

"The positive reinforcement, excitement, training, leadership skills and friendships gained will endure long after the convention closes," he said, in encouraging Kiwanis clubs and school advisers to be sure their clubs attend.

He hopes Kiwanis clubs will offer financial support for their sponsored youth clubs to attend this convention with the theme "Celebrate Superheroes of Service." The convention registration fee is \$165 per attendee.

The convention weekend will include educational and training seminars, guest speakers, caucuses, elec-

tion of district officers, recognition banquet Saturday night, Sunday brunch, two dances with DJs, convention T-shirt and goody bag.

Individual and club competitions will range from skit, oratory and talent to club posters, videos and scrapbooks. See the website for a complete list of contests and awards to be given.

School Key Club advisers have been sent convention information, Price said.

Go to the Alabama District Key Club website, www.alabamakeyclub.org, and click on the convention tab for more information and to download application forms for contests, awards and scholarships that will be available during the convention.

Convention registration forms and checks should be mailed to: George L. Price, District Administrator, Alabama District Key Club, 1205 Mixon Avenue, Bay Minette, AL 36507. Make

checks payable to: Alabama District Key Club.

Meals for Kiwanians or others attending only one event, such as the Saturday night banquet for \$28, may be purchased separately.

Email questions to Price at gprice@alabamakeyclub.org.

The annual "Keeping Promises Walk" to raise funds for the District Key Club project, Children's Hospital, will be held at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, April 6. The cost to enter is \$15, which can be paid during convention registration Friday afternoon. Each person entering will receive a T-shirt, bottle of water and granola bar.

Rooms should be reserved directly with the Birmingham Marriott at 1-800-399-7618 by mentioning Alabama District Key Club Convention; the deadline to reserve rooms at the convention rate is March 13.

Key Leader program provides a 'life-changing' opportunity

By Jamie Brabston

District Key Leader Administrator

Registration for Key Leader 2013 is under way!

You still don't know what Key Leader is?

It is the most exciting Service Leadership opportunity of the year! Key Leader is a fun and rewarding weekend that provides students the opportunity to explore new ideas, make friends and develop better leadership skills.



Jamie Brabston

Emerging leaders in your area must attend this exciting, fun and educational weekend April 19-21 in a new Alabama location: Jackson's Gap.

Past participants from the Alabama District have described their Key Leader experience as "awesome" and "life-changing!" Please do not miss this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the youth in your area.

Key Leader is open to all students who are currently in 8th -12th grade, whether or not they are already serving in Key

Club or Builders Club.

In fact, this is a wonderful opportunity to foster interest in your area if you are trying to start a Key Club at your local high school, or increase membership in an existing club. It is quite common for students to turn their experience from the Key Leader weekend into a leadership role at an existing Key Club, or to even initiate the forming of a Key Club at their own high school if one does not exist.

There is no limit on the number of students who may attend from a single school or group. Ideally, we will have representation from all over our District.

The 2012 Alabama District Key Leader event was a huge success with attendance by over 50 students from numerous divisions. Many of these students have already contacted me regarding their interest in returning this year as a student facilitator.

We have 10 spots for student facilitators, who lead the Key Leader participants in small group activities, so please contact me if you know someone whose leadership abilities make them a good candidate for this position.

Adult volunteers from the Alabama District will coordinate logistics and supervise the students. If you are interested in volunteering as a chaperone, please let us know. Just like the kids, this is an awesome experience for the adults, too!

Feedback from last year's event best exemplifies the impact and importance of the Key Leader experience:

"Make sure it happens next year! I had an amazing time and can't wait to come back next year!"

"I had an awesome time at Key Leader and plan on returning in the future." "I got to meet new people and I also learned how to make my community better."

"I learned a lot of stuff to become a better leader. Thank you very much!"

Key Leader details

Date: April 19-21, 2013

Location: Camp ASCCA in Jackson's Gap, Ala.

Open to: all 8th - 12th graders

Fees: Only \$200 per student (\$175 for Key Club students); includes two nights' lodging, all meals and snacks, program materials, a cool T-shirt and lots of fun

How to register: Online registration is open now, but space is limited. See www.key-leader.org.

- Some scholarships may be available, but will go quickly.

- Assistance with transportation may also be available.

Interested in learning more? Please visit www.key-leader.org or contact Jamie Brabston at Jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com, (256-679-6341).

Your \$12 gift puts 3 books in the hands of a child

Show your love for RIF ...

Recently, Jean Dean RIF made its first direct appeal to individuals through a direct mail campaign to Alabama Kiwanians. Many thanks to all of you across the state who have responded. Thanks to those who are helping at-risk young children or still planning donations.

Your donations are needed as soon as possible to help pay for this year's

books across Alabama where we have either no Kiwanis clubs or small clubs and large numbers of children in need. Because a federal grant is no longer available, everything about our ordering process has changed, from book prices to payment schedules.

I appreciate your support of Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis and its early literacy efforts for at-risk young children of Alabama. A gift of \$12 helps put three

books in the hands of a child, or perhaps you can help give books to a class of 15 for \$180.

Make tax-deductible checks to Jean Dean RIF and mail to P.O. Box 848, Opelika, AL 36803-0848. If you prefer to donate using your credit card, please go to www.jeandeanrif.org and use the "Donate" button.

— Cathy Gafford,
executive director, Jean Dean RIF



More than 250 runners and close to 100 volunteers participated in the 2012 Run to Read on Oct. 20 in Opelika.

Run to Read raises \$7,000 for books

By Cathy Gafford

Executive Director

Jean Dean RIF/Reading Is Fundamental

The 2012 Run to Read, headed by run director Rich Bailey of Opelika Kiwanis, was another enjoyable success for Jean Dean RIF (Reading Is Fundamental).

More than 250 people registered from all over Alabama and as far away as Tennessee and Florida. Close to 100 volunteers provided support at this growing event, held Oct. 20 at Floral Park in Opelika.

We couldn't put on Run to Read without the long-standing volunteer Run Committee, local Kiwanians, AU Kappa Kappa Gammas, AU IMPACT, Auburn-Opelika Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, First Presbyterian Church and local members of Beta Sigma Phi, who help us ensure the safety and enjoyment of a well run 5K, 10K and 1.5-mile Fun Walk through historic north Opelika.

This year we also had the benefit of the AU Equestrians helping at the finish line and members of the University of Alabama Circle K who came from Tuscaloosa and "camped out" at the warehouse, providing volunteer help from Friday night through Saturday afternoon when everything was "done."

Also this year, longtime Kiwanis friend Robert Noles handled photography, and people were able to purchase pictures online. Glenn Buxton ran the microphone activities and that too, was a huge addition to our event.

As usual, Clifford the Big Red Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog were a hit, as was the Parenting Fair held in conjunction with the run.

We netted close to \$7,000 on the run and are hoping to double that next year with increased participation and sponsor support from around the state.



Mid-winter Conference agenda

**Alabama District of Kiwanis
Feb. 22-23, 2013 — Prattville**

Friday, Feb. 22, 2013

■ Afternoon board meetings

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. RIF Advisory Board meeting

2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. District Foundation meeting

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. District Board meeting

■ Evening events

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Casual awards dinner

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Hospitality room open at Cottage

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013

■ Coffee meetings

7:30 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. Eliminate Committee (at Cottage)

7:30 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. Reading Is Fundamental

7:30 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. Past governors, past and present lieutenant governors

■ Saturday program events

8:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. General business session (with buffet breakfast)

Featured speaker:

Past International President Paul Palazzolo

9:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Training for club presidents and secretaries

9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Workshops:

- 1) Eliminate Project Training
- 2) Forming a Club Foundation
- 3) Building Club and District Leadership
- 4)

10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Workshops:

- 1) Eliminate Project
- 2) District Foundation/RIF/International Foundation
- 3) Paul Palazzolo: 10 Habits for Successful Clubs
- 4)

11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Interclub Luncheon

Featured speaker:

Rebecca Riley, Key Club International President

Note: Conference registration and the Saturday meetings, breakfast and luncheon will be held in the conference wing of the Legends Marriott Hotel at Prattville, but some Friday evening events and one Saturday coffee are planned at the Presidential Cottage nearby on the Marriott grounds (check at conference registration desk for location announcements).

Prattville (From Page 1)

Friday afternoon between 1 and 5 p.m. (see agenda on this page). Then a casual awards dinner will begin at 7 p.m., with Past Governor Tammy Driskill presenting recognitions of Kiwanis achievements during her 2011-12 term.

On Saturday morning, three 7:30 a.m. coffee gatherings will be held for Reading Is Fundamental; Eliminate Committee; and past governors and past and present lieutenant governors.

The conference registration includes a buffet breakfast, which will be served just before the general session begins. The breakfast and meeting will be from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m.

Palazzolo will address Kiwanians at that session. Later he will present a workshop on "Ten Habits for Successful Clubs."

Two workshop sessions

During two sessions of morning workshops, Kiwanians can choose from the "Ten Habits" topic and others, including the Eliminate world ser-

vice project to eradicate maternal and neonatal tetanus, forming a club foundation, building club and district leadership, and the Kiwanis International Foundation, Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Reading Is Fundamental.

Also, training for club presidents and secretaries will be offered from 9:40 to 11:30 a.m.

The interclub luncheon will begin at 11:45 a.m. Riley, who was elected Key Club International president last summer, will be the luncheon speaker.

District Secretary Pat Manasco said Kiwanis International honors such as Hixson and Zeller awards, as well as the Alabama District's Barnett awards, will be presented at the luncheon. "If you are planning to honor any of your members with those, please get your applications in soon," she said.

There also will be some live auction items for fundraising.

The Kiwanis governor asks everyone to make sure their clubs are represented in Prattville. "We have a spectacular lineup of speakers and workshops that will enhance your membership experience," Sisk said.

How to register

Again this year, registration with a credit or debit card payment can be accomplished online through a link from the district website, Alabama.kiwanis.org (with service fee added). You may choose to print out a registration form and mail it to the district office with a check. A registration form is on Page 8 of this issue.

The registration fee is \$65 per member, including the opening session breakfast and the interclub luncheon. Guest tickets for the luncheon are \$30 each. Each ticket for the Friday evening dinner will be \$30.

The deadline for Mid-winter Conference registration at \$65 is Feb. 8; a late registration fee of an additional \$15 per person must be paid after 3 p.m. Feb. 8.

For information, call or email Manasco at 205-945-1334 or patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net.

Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 800-468-3571. A conference rate of \$119 is available until Feb. 3 to those mentioning Kiwanis. The hotel is located at 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066.

ALABAMA DISTRICT KIWANIS

**2013 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
THE LEGENDS-MONTGOMERY MARRIOTT HOTEL
PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA**

February 22-23, 2013

Please copy and use one registration per Kiwanian

PLEASE PRINT!!

Last Name _____ First Name _____

First Time Attendee: Yes ___ No ___

Are you staying at the Marriott? Friday: Y ___ N ___ Saturday: Y ___ N ___

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

E-mail: _____

Kiwanis Club _____ Division _____

Partner/Guest Name _____

Name for Badge _____

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>FEE</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|--|---------------|------------|--------------|
| <u>MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE</u> Includes Opening Session Breakfast and Inter-club Luncheon | # _____ | @ \$ 65.00 | \$ _____ |
| <u>GUEST TICKET - INTERCLUB LUNCHEON (not a Kiwanis member)</u> | # _____ | @ \$ 30.00 | \$ _____ |
| <u>FRIDAY NIGHT CELEBRATION DINNER</u> Join Fellow Kiwanians for a Fun filled night to celebrate the success of The Great Alabama District | # _____ | @ \$ 30.00 | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED: | | | \$ _____ |

***LATE REGISTRATION FEE** of additional \$ 15.00 per person who registers **AFTER FEBRUARY 8, 2013.**
Persons attending the Interclub luncheon must check in at desk at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the luncheon or lose their reservations.

MAKE REGISTRATION CHECK PAYABLE TO: ALABAMA DISTRICT KIWANIS

MAIL REGISTRATION TO: Alabama District Kiwanis, 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham AL 35209.
Reservations made must be paid since we are charged based on reservation numbers.

Alabama Circle K convention will be March 1-3 in Florence

Kiwanis interclubs invited to attend banquet on Saturday night

The 55th annual Alabama Circle K Convention is planned March 1-3 at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa in Florence.

The theme will be "Travel Down the Rabbit Hole to Service in Wonderland," with Circle K members encouraged to participate in convention contests to build club spirit and to celebrate the talents of both clubs and individuals.

Kiwanis members also may register and attend this sponsored youth event to see how they celebrate service and build friendships. Find more information at <http://convention.alabamacki.org>.

There are several ways Kiwanis clubs can help, according to David Womack, Alabama District Circle K administrator.

First, plan to attend or send an interclub from your Kiwanis club.

"I am asking that you attend if at all possible, and if you can bring a Kiwanis interclub to the convention, that would be fantastic," Womack said.

"We are especially interested in interclubs attending the banquet on Saturday night, but we must have folks pre-paid using the online registration." He said there is a separate price for the Saturday dinner that is available to Kiwanis and Key Club guests and interclubs (see <http://convention.alabamacki.org>).

Second, make sure that the Circle K your club sponsors meets the dead-

Check with your Kiwanis club's sponsored Circle K and make sure they are planning to attend and compete and are working on awards applications and competitions.

lines for registration and awards.

"Please check with your sponsored Circle K and make sure they are working on their awards and that they do apply," said Womack. "We want every club to have some recognition of their club or a club member when they leave. If they don't apply for any, they tie our hands.

"We need to be sure clubs have gone online and updated their membership rosters and that they have paid the club fee and district dues. They must do this to be in good standing so that they can seat their delegates in the House of Delegates and so that they can be judged for awards," he said.

"Every Circle K club should have two voting delegates attend, but it is not just about electing officers -- it is a time of celebration and honoring clubs for their accomplishments during the year. Be sure your clubs fill out award forms and enter contests to see if they are one of the best in Alabama," Womack said.

Competitions will include a talent revue, with individuals or club groups auditioning to show a wealth of talent

ranging from dance and instrumentals to stand-up comedy and vocals.

Circle K members attending also can compete in oratorical and impromptu essay categories, as well as for best club DVD, poster, T-shirt, skit, non-traditional scrapbook and traditional scrapbook.

"We have plenty of opportunities for clubs to be recognized," said Womack. "It is up to your club's officers to see that they prepare awards applications and submit them by the deadlines." Award forms are available from the convention website.

If your Circle K club has not submitted awards before, advisers and others should encourage them to do so, the administrator said. "Wording and appearance of the report count. You may want to read over the forms before the club brings them to the convention. Most of the forms require an adviser or someone outside the club to sign the form.

"Getting recognition is a nice way of Circle K clubs getting encouragement at the convention, so please get your clubs to apply," Womack said.

One of the highest honors is for club achievement, which honors the overall accomplishments of the club during the year. The other is single service, which recognizes the best project carried out during the year. Judges look at membership participation, purpose of the project, and scope of the project served.

Buy tickets early for Barons baseball fundraiser April 10

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 10, 2013, opening night at the Birmingham Barons new ball park, when a District-wide Eliminate fundraiser is planned.

Enjoy baseball while helping the Kiwanis world service project to elim-

inate maternal/neonatal tetanus.

Past Alabama District Governor Colean Black will have details at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 22-23.

Space is limited, so plan to buy your tickets early — you don't want to miss

this opening night!

The game between the Birmingham Barons and the Mississippi Braves will begin at 7 p.m. at the new Regions Field downtown at First Avenue South and 14th Street South, across the street from Railroad Park.

How clubs can reach 'Distinguished' status

The Alabama District's goal for 2012-13 is to present the Distinguished Club award to at least 25 percent of its Kiwanis clubs, says District Governor Wayne Sisk.

He reviews the criteria for achieving this below.

The 2012-2013 Kiwanis International Distinguished Club Criteria will focus on the Six Objects of Kiwanis.

1. Giving Primacy to the Human and Spiritual

- Participate in the Eliminate Project
- Honor a member or community volunteer with 25 years of service
- Enroll a new member committed to the Six Objects of Kiwanis

2. Encourage the Golden Rule in All Relationships

- Complete a project involving Character Education
- Recognize a local hero who saved children from harm
- Enroll a new member involved in youth services and/or mentoring

3. Adopting Higher Social, Business, Professional Standards

- Work with Service Leadership Programs or other youth clubs to protect the environment
- Obtain \$50 or more donation payable to Kiwanis International Foundation from private business
- Obtain \$50 or more donation payable to the District Foundation from private business

4. Develop by Example a More Aggressive and Serviceable Citizenship

- Project advocating for Young Children / Early Childhood Development
- Certify club participation in Kiwanis education and training program
- Enroll new member who is a former Key Club or Circle K member

5. Forming Enduring Friendships to Build Better Communities

- Connect and interact with Kiwanis clubs in another Kiwanis district or nation

- Initiate and complete a new service project involving at least two new members

- Certify club participation in either International Convention or District Convention

6. Creating Public Opinion to Support Patriotism and Goodwill

- Launch a traditional or social media campaign to promote Kiwanis service
- Complete a project to benefit the children or families of heroes
- Enroll a new member involved in media or government service

To be a Distinguished Club, the following criteria must be achieved:

- Enroll a minimum of three new members in any of the Object categories; (multiple new members in any one category is acceptable)
- Certify completion of required club leadership education programs
- Satisfy at least eight additional criteria within the Six Objects of Kiwanis, achieving a total of 12 items completed.

Governor (From Page 2)

nators for Eliminate. It is critical to the success of this worldwide service project that we all participate, and these volunteers are crucial to spreading the word.

The fundraising bar has been set high, so please consider being a Model Club or a \$100K Club, or as an individual consider pledging a Zeller, although any amount you feel comfortable giving is greatly appreciated. There is a link on the Alabama Kiwanis website where you can go to learn more. Thank you for showing your compassion as we save more than 60,000 innocent babies and 30,000 mothers each year from this deadly disease.

Our Mid-winter Convention is in Prattville again on Feb. 22-23. There will be so much to learn and so much to hear that you will not want to miss it.

We will have special guests such as current International Key Club President Rebecca Riley from Alabama and Past Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo, who will be there to encourage us and to share with us their visions. You will learn what is going on this year in the way of our many Service Leadership Programs.

Please come be a part of the experience, the fun and the fellowship. Encourage members to come and bring a group for the Interclub Luncheon this year. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The months are clicking by and we are well into the second quarter of our club year. While I have mentioned many things that are important to me, I must not fail to mention membership growth. Before we can serve, we

must have the members to provide the service.

Knock on those doors; invite co-workers, friends, family, business acquaintances and past Key Clubbers and Circle K'ers to your club meetings. Bring them with you to fundraisers or service projects to show them what we are about, but be sure to then give them the opportunity to be a part of the greatest service organization in the world, Kiwanis.

Our membership is vital to those that need us, the Children of the World. They are "Our Children and it is Their Future" that we care so much about. Please do it for them.

I wish you well as you journey along to meet the goals you have set before you. I welcome your invitation to come see you in a division council meeting or at a club function.

Please keep in mind the "Six Objects of Kiwanis" in all your club business, as it is what we were founded on and the objects mean as much today as they did in 1919.

This year's Distinguished Club and Distinguished Member awards will be based on the "Six Objects of Kiwanis," so I am providing the guidelines again for your guidance as you and your clubs continue to grow (see guidelines above and on Page 11).

There are many resources to help you with growth, some of which will be offered you at the Mid-winter Conference. I am excited about seeing you there. Make a difference in a child's life today; serve.

Yours in Kiwanis Service, God Bless,

Wayne Sisk

Alabama District Governor, 2012-2013

Vancouver is the place to be

By Tom DeJulio

2012-13 Kiwanis International President

Greetings, Kiwanians,

I want to wish each of you a happy 2013! This new year is full of promise and excitement for Kiwanis as we discover new ways to support "Our Children, Their Future" in Kiwanis communities around the globe.

This summer, our 98th annual



Tom DeJulio

Kiwanis International Convention will be in Vancouver, Canada. I hope you'll be able to join us!

Keep reading to find out more about this incredible destination and what you can expect during this year's convention.

John Deighton is a legend in Vancouver. With a barrel full of whiskey and a head full of big ideas, he found his way into town and opened a saloon that catered to those who had a thirst to build a diverse, multi-cultural new world.

Deighton also talked a lot to his patrons — so much that he became known as "Gassy John" and the area surrounding his enterprise became known as Gastown.

Vancouver is now known for a lot more than Gastown. It has natural beauty and a cool summer climate with attractions like beaches and nearby rain forests. It has a thriving, modern and friendly culture that makes all people who visit feel welcome.

I can't think of a more fitting place than Vancouver for our convention! After all, the fellowship of Kiwanians plays such an important part in the convention experience. It's where we meet old friends, make new friends, and no doubt we will talk a lot when we express our views in our Friday



Canadian wildlife

The Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 27-30 will give visitors a chance to see an area known for its wildlife, harbor and gardens. Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco, who toured hotel and convention sites on a January visit there, said the closest she got to wildlife was this stuffed moose, but she is hoping to take a train trip and perhaps a whale-watching expedition while there in June. She has scheduled a District Dinner aboard a harbor sightseeing cruise around the scenic Vancouver harbor, but make your reservations early, because space will be limited to 40 Alabama Kiwanians, she said (more information is on Pages 1 and 3).

business session.

It's the place to be — to learn a lot and discuss all the latest happenings in Kiwanis.

During the closing session, Sarah McLachlan will accept the 2013 World Service Medal for her dedication to music education. The Sarah McLachlan School of Music in Vancouver provides music education to underserved and at-risk youth at no cost. The school is dedicated to helping young people build community and find their voice.

The Midtown Men — the original Jersey Boys — will entertain us; gifted speakers will inspire us; and hundreds of members of Circle K International will walk with us to raise funds for

The Eliminate Project.

And like those early patrons who were served by Gassy John at his well-established enterprise, Vancouver will be our chance to shape the future of the world we want to build.

I encourage you to register today and share with us the Kiwanis experience in Vancouver.

And if you can, while you are enjoying a great meal in Gastown, raise your glasses and propose a toast to the legendary Gassy John: that his enterprise will lift our spirits when we leave Vancouver so we can build a world filled with many more diverse and multi-cultural members who have big ideas to serve "Our Children, Their Future."

How to become a Distinguished Kiwanian

The Kiwanis International Distinguished Kiwanian Award will be granted to a member in good standing who:

- Sponsors two new members.
- Participates in one Kiwanis-branded service leadership project or activity.
- Participates in one service project involving the health, education or safety of young children in their developing years.

The summer 2013 District Convention is scheduled July 26-28 in Huntsville

Past Gov. Harvey Watson dies at 88

Harvey Watson, a past Distinguished Governor of the Alabama Kiwanis District, died Dec. 4, 2012, at his home in Vestavia Hills. He was 88.

A native of Opelika, he attended the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point and served in the Merchant Marines in the Pacific during World War II.

Watson graduated from Auburn University in 1948 with a degree in chemical engineering. He earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh during his 35-year career with the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA). After retirement, he was a consultant and small business owner.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Frances Watson, to whom he was married for 53 years.

Survivors include a sister, Minnie Scott of Opelika; four sons, Harvey I. Watson Jr. of Birmingham, William Harrison Watson of Rochester, N.Y., David McDonald Watson of Beaumont, Texas, and Robert Scott Watson of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 4 p.m. Dec. 7 at South Highland Presbyterian Church, where he was a member, with visitation in the parlor afterward. A graveside service was held at noon Dec. 8 at Garden Hills Cemetery in Opelika.

Watson, who was called by his nickname "Cotton" by friends, is remembered for his service to children by many fellow Kiwanians.

Joe Dean, Alabama District Governor in 1990-91, recalled that he and "Cotton" both grew up in Opelika. "He was younger, so we did not become close friends until we 'met again' as older adults doing service work through Kiwanis."

While Dean was governor, Kiwanis International took an important step in directing its major emphasis activities around the world toward helping young children age 0 through 5 (the Young Children 0-5 Priority One program), and he asked Watson to be the first Alabama District



Harvey Watson

Priority One chairman.

Dean recalled that Watson worked tirelessly, speaking and providing materials across the state that launched Alabama Kiwanians into numerous service efforts and helped improve the physical health and mental abilities of thousands of at-risk children.

"He didn't just get behind that service for one year. He continued to do a wonderful job in expanding service for young children later during his term as Alabama District Governor of Kiwanis and as the Kiwanis representative on the Alabama

Council on Child Abuse. And then he served until the time of his death as chairman of the Jean Dean RIF Advisory Board," Dean said.

"Cotton and my wife, Jean, were childhood friends and renewed their friendship through Kiwanis. During her final illness, he called her once a week from Birmingham, and she truly enjoyed those chats," Dean said. Watson was a valued member of the Jean Dean Courage Award Committee and made many of the presentations to honorees over the years.

"He was a great Kiwanian, a great father to his own children and a great friend to me and others."

Cathy Dean Gafford, executive director of Jean Dean RIF (Reading Is Fundamental), said Watson offered words of encouragement and caring advice. He was "always the gentleman and always with something positive to say. I couldn't ask for anyone better as chairman of the RIF Advisory Committee," she said.

"He always read with his Kiwanis club at local RIF book distributions. He and Daddy and I traveled many miles together for Kiwanis, and he went to bat for RIF more times than I can count."

Brian Rodgers of Pelham, the Alabama District's current vice governor, said Watson "was a great leader in the Kiwanis organization. His compassion and love for children and the community were evident."

Note these Kiwanis dates for 2013

Friday, Feb. 22 - Saturday, Feb. 23

Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference
Legends Marriott, Prattville

Friday, March 1 - Sunday, March 3

Circle K District Convention
Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, Florence

Friday, April 5 - Sunday, April 7

Key Club District Convention
Birmingham Marriott, Birmingham

Wednesday, April 10

Kiwanis District-wide Eliminate fundraiser
Birmingham Barons' opener at new ball park

Friday, April 19 - Sunday, April 21

Key Leader Weekend
Camp ASCCA, Jackson's Gap

Thursday, June 27 - Sunday, June 30

Kiwanis International Convention & Circle K International Convention
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Wednesday, July 3 - Sunday, July 7

Key Club International Convention
Washington, D.C.

Friday, July 26 - Sunday, July 28

Alabama District Kiwanis Convention
Huntsville

Remember your annual club gift of \$5 per member to the Kiwanis International Foundation



The 2012 Truel Watts Ride to Read in Opelika provided three books each for more than 260 children. The annual motorcycle poker run event was founded by the late Truel Watts, a past governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis.



Ride to Read helps RIF

By Cathy Gafford

Executive Director, Jean Dean RIF

Big-hearted bikers from across Alabama came together at Big Swamp Harley-Davidson in Opelika on the last day of June — a day of record temperatures and record efforts in the annual Truel Watts Ride to Read.

Though facing 100-degree heat, participants in the motorcycle poker run continued a tradition to help Jean Dean RIF (Reading Is Fundamental), the signature project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, put books in the homes of 25,000 at-risk young children across Alabama.

60 miles in the heat

Nearly 40 riders and another 20-plus faithful RIF volunteers braved the heat to enjoy a 60-mile ride that included stops at Big Swamp, Chewacla State Park, Opelika Sportsplex and Cambridge Place.

It was less than half the group of riders expected, but no one had expected the high temperatures when the Ride to Read was planned. We were thrilled to see the folks who did come and endured the heat. Riders came on a variety of bikes, and we had a lot of fun and netted more than

\$3,200 to help at-risk young children get books in their homes -- for many, the first books in their homes.

Sylvia Watts, wife of Ride founder Truel Watts, came from Millbrook to help again this time. Other volunteers came from Kohl's, Beta Sigma Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Auburn University, CMA Trinity Riders No. 295, Kiwanis and the Ride to Read committee.

The grand prize winner, Daks Gentry, got a \$750 trip to Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, while Tori Sands' second-place hand won a Harley-Davidson leather jacket. Even our worst hand winner, John Gore, went home with some new sunglasses.

Those attending enjoyed a breakfast bake sale compliments of the Auburn-Opelika Emblem Club No. 280, the upbeat music of Auburn Audio, an Outback Steakhouse lunch and drank a lot of cold water from Dean & Barrett. They bid on finds at the auction from Story's, Gatherings, Rick Bell, the Hal Smith Store and more, got deals at Big Swamp, won door prizes from The Village Cookery, Waffle House and Big Swamp, and got coupons and souvenirs from Zaxby's and Kinnucan's. They played

bike games courtesy of CMA Trinity Riders No. 295.

John VanNostrand won the travel door prize, which was a night at a Hampton Inn in Birmingham. Rick Bell won the \$50 Outback Steakhouse gift card early-bird drawing.

Many sponsors

Thanks to all of our supporters, including major sponsors Kiwanis, Big Swamp Harley-Davidson, Opelika-Auburn News, Frederick's Funeral Home and Kohl's, and additional sponsors EAMC, JoAnn and Sidney Lanier of Wedowee, Opelika-Auburn Emblem Club No. 280, ALFA Insurance of Valley, BancorpSouth of Opelika, Millbrook-Coosada Kiwanis, Zaxby's of Tigertown and Valley), Howard E. Rearden D.M.D., PMF Promed, Suzi and Kervin Kelley of Montgomery and Xi Beta Iota Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi.

It is a pleasure to work with Big Swamp Harley-Davidson each year to raise funds to help the children get books in their homes. We appreciate the donations from Big Swamp that add so much to our ride and look forward to the 2013 Ride to Read.