100th year: time to celebrate

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

The Kiwanis theme for its centennial year is to celebrate with lots of parties, dinners and cakes.

Every club should be planning a party or some type of observance during the week of the Kiwanis 100th anniversary, which officially falls on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.

Districts are busy thinking up ways to party at their district conventions, too. Alabama will highlight the 100th anniversary at its Mid-winter Conference Feb. 20-21, 2015, at the Marriott Legends Conference Center in Prattville, and also at its District Convention Aug. 7-8, 2015, at Embassy Suites in Tuscaloosa.

Kiwanis International already has centennial merchandise available through its catalog and is planning to mark 100 years during the International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 25-28, 2015.

But first, a big Kiwanis party is planned for the anniversary weekend, Jan. 23-24, 2015, in the city where it all started: Detroit, Michigan. Kiwanis got its start there as a single club on Jan. 21, 1915, and has grown into a worldwide service organization.

Any Kiwanian who wants to attend can register for the Detroit events; forms and hotel information are available on the Kiwanis International website at www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis100/centennial-events/detroit-2015.

Alabama District Governor Brian Rodgers is planning to attend the Alabama District Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 20-21, 2015.

Alabama Kiwanians were saddened to hear of two more deaths of past district governors in October and November (see obituaries on Page 12).

Immediate Past Governor William L. “Bill” Phillips Jr. of Pell City died Oct. 24 just 3½ weeks after completing his one-year term as governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis. He was 74 and a member of the Pell City club.

He and his wife, Jean, were among the many K-Family members who gathered in Opelika on Oct. 11 to help label books for use this school year by the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program.

Past Governor Adrian Watson of Huntsville died Nov. 12 at the age of 87. He led Alabama Kiwanians in 1997-98 and was a member of the Huntsville West club.

Many fellow Kiwanis members attended those funerals, as they also did the Aug. 4 service for Past Governor J.W. Sales of Monroeville, whose obituary was in the Summer 2014 online Kiwanis Kourier.

Past Governors Bill Phillips and Adrian Watson die
Close your eyes for a moment. I want you to take a moment to stop and think about an abstract word. It is one that has no inherent imagery in and of itself — but rather is a word that brings to mind a thousand different images for a thousand different people. That word is Kiwanis.

What came to your mind? Pancakes, service, books, immunizations, friends, neighbors, speakers, meetings, children, smiles? The list is endless.

I am a licensed professional counselor, and I find that these types of activities are helpful for the clients I work with. We often live in a world that moves at such a frenetic pace that we do not have time to slow down and live in the moment and appreciate the lives we are leading. Activities like this help us stop and reflect on what we value and how we create meaning out of the abstract. It helps us stop and refocus on what is important.

Historic moments, such as the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis that we are celebrating this year, do the same thing. They challenge us to stop and reflect and evaluate what it means to be a part of a vibrant organization. What are we a part of in the bigger sense and on a personal level? What impact are we making? What legacy are we leaving? How are we using our gifts, talents and resources to the best of our abilities?

My challenge for you this year — on a club level and a personal level — is to take time to stop and reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

Ask yourself what being a Kiwanis member means to you. Are you living out the objects of Kiwanis (see Page 3)? Are they relevant? Are they something that make you a better person and your community a better place?

I realize that this article is more questions than answers...but sometimes that is what life is about. Sometimes that is what we need to reflect on to make our world a better place.

I truly believe that this is a time of amazing revitalization. We have a strong legacy behind us and a bright future ahead. Kiwanis is something that we all “Love, Share & Live.”

I think that the only answer to these questions is that we need Kiwanis and our communities need Kiwanis. Kiwanis is not some predefined thing — rather it is a concept of limitless possibilities.

Make it what you want it to be. Make it what your communities want it to be. Make it fun! Make it vital! Make it something that everyone

From the Governor

By Brian Rodgers

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(See GOVERNOR, Page 3)
Governor
(From Page 2)

wants to be a part of because they see how it makes your life better.
When we do this, it allows us to dream big. And when we dream big, it creates a fire in our hearts that is contagious. That fire will lead to a very bright future!
I look forward to visiting with all of
your Kiwanis divisions during this year. I look forward to hearing about the great ways that you are impacting your communities.
I hope that you share those successes on our District Facebook page.
I look forward to seeing every club represented at our Mid-winter Conference in Prattville. This will be a time when we can celebrate together!

District Secretary Pat Manasco visits the Hoover Metro Kiwanis Club with the banner announcing that it is the home club of 2014-2015 Alabama District Governor Brian Rodgers.

Gifts to KI Foundation help children

From the Kiwanis International Foundation

Our mission at the Kiwanis International Foundation is to assist Kiwanis International in serving the children of the world. After all, that service makes up Kiwanis’ own mission.

So the work of our foundation helps the Kiwanis family of programs change children’s lives — often in ways that would otherwise remain beyond the resources of clubs and districts.

In fact, our vision is to extend your Kiwanis impact. We strive to make sure your gift helps children in many places and many ways. And we succeed by holding fast to a set of core values:

The Kiwanis International Foundation is joining nearly 10,000 other charities, nonprofits and businesses in Giving Tuesday — Dec. 2 this year. KI’s fundraising goal is $30,000 for the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, which supports grants to Kiwanis clubs, districts, district foundations and Kiwanis’ Service Leadership programs.

See details on next page.

The 6 objects of Kiwanis

1. To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
2. To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
3. To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
4. To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
5. To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
6. To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

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Stewardship. We are committed to meeting and sustaining donors’ confidence that our foundation will invest their contributions wisely and distribute them in keeping with the values inherent in the Kiwanis International mission.

Transparency. We adhere to the Donor Bill of Rights to treat all constituents fairly and ethically and to be above board in all of our dealings.

Responsiveness. We are relevant and proactive in meeting donors’ and grantees’ needs.

Legacy. We give donors the opportunity to leave a lasting mark on the world.

Integrity. We deal honestly in our interactions with all stakeholders.

Trust. Through the integrity of our actions, we seek to earn and maintain the trust of our Kiwanis family and constituents.

Along with all these values comes accountability. Your gifts reflect your hope for children’s lives — and your trust in us. So we strive to earn that trust. We share records and reports that document gifts, grants and the people we serve.
A service project was underway while Kiwanians were meeting in Gadsden Nov. 9. Tish Hutchinson, member of Gadsden Kiwanis Club and adviser and Northeast Zone chair for Alabama Key Club, left, watched Pathways Academy seniors Michelle McGahey and Seth Henry who are helping start a Key Club quickly make a no-sew, princess-look blanket for a hospital patient. Division 7 Kiwanians talking with Governor Brian Rodgers include Division 7 Lt. Governor Tammy Driskill, Jacksonville club projects chairman Dick Bell, Gadsden club board member Mariella McNair, Gadsden secretary-treasurer Lamar Smith, Kevin Yates, Glenda Selman, Andy Smith and others.

Governor Rodgers visits Division 7

Alabama District Governor Brian Rodgers is making his way around the state, meeting Kiwanians, talking about new plans and membership numbers and emphasizing service. One fall Sunday afternoon he was in Gadsden for a Division 7 governor’s visit held in the Great Hall of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church.

He talked about donating to Eliminate, training officers, and requirements for clubs and leaders to become Distinguished. Rodgers said that a new emphasis, The Formula, is all about “getting new people on board at various levels.”

Clubs “often do the same thing over and over because it’s never been questioned,” he said, but it is good to try something different.

Rodgers also mentioned getting on board with “Team Tammy” and attending the Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis in June to help elect Alabama Past Governor Tammy Driskill of Gadsden to the Kiwanis International Board.

He asked clubs to “strengthen your family ties” with Key Clubs, Circle K and other groups, as well as working to attract new members. Alabama has about 3,600 Kiwanians, with 14 new members recently added.

Black Friday, Cyber Monday — and now ... Giving Tuesday

Everyone has heard of Black Friday, the shopping madness on the day after Thanksgiving. Most have heard of Cyber Monday, when tech retailers entice you to buy gadgets that you didn’t even know you “need.”

But have you heard of Giving Tuesday? This is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving where everyone is encouraged to focus on others and make a collective impact that makes the world a better place.

Governor Brian Rodgers hopes Kiwanians will consider making both club gifts and personal gifts to the Kiwanis International Foundation on Dec. 2. It is easy, secure, and most of all impactful, he said, and he plans to remind members via email and social media. “Let’s see what we are capable of,” said Rodgers.

Giving Tuesday includes nearly 10,000 partners, from charities and nonprofit organizations to businesses and individuals. Among them is Kiwanis International, which has a $30,000 goal.
At The Eliminate Project USA Region 2 Summit in Atlanta Oct. 31-Nov. 1 are, from left: John Holley, Georgia District coordinator; John Fry, Speakers Bureau captain, USA Region 2; Randy DeLay, campaign chair; Bill Harrigan, Kentucky-Tennessee District representative; Dr. Wil Blechman, director, USA Region 2; John Mayfield; campaign lead and major gifts co-chair; Elizabeth Tezza, Carolinas District co-coordinator; Tammy Driskill, Alabama District coordinator; Chuck Gugliuzza, Florida District co-coordinator; Dennis Oliver, Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee District coordinator; Tatiana Day, campaign director; and Ashley Meruani, campaign area director, USA Region 2. Attending but not pictured were John Tyner, Capital District coordinator, and Emilia Gugliuzza, Florida District co-coordinator, who took the photo.

**Eliminate Summit outlines final push**

Tammy Driskill, Alabama District’s coordinator for The Eliminate Project and a past governor, attended the Eliminate USA Region 2 Summit in Atlanta Oct. 31-Nov. 1. The purpose of the summit was to formulate district action plans “to guide us through the final year of the campaign so we can celebrate our success and present this gift to the world at our 100th birthday celebration in Indianapolis in June,” said Driskill.

“We discussed three tools to help: 250 Zeller matching grants of $250 each, matching grants of up to 20 percent of the balance remaining for a club to reach a Model Club pledge, and the Save-a-Baby-a-Day campaign.”

Alabama Kiwanians will hear about these steps from Driskill, who is also serving as a lieutenant governor this year. She has announced that she will be a candidate for the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees during officer elections in Indianapolis. Driskill is a bankruptcy attorney in Gadsden.

At the District Convention in Mobile in August, new Alabama District Vice Governor Keith Graham gets a briefing from Ashley Meruani, USA 2 area director for The Eliminate Project, about the project and how Kiwanians can help with it through Walter Zeller Fellowship donations.

**Top 10 facts about The Eliminate Project**

See Page 6.
Celebrate 100 years of Kiwanis at International Convention in Indianapolis June 25-28, 2015

Top 10 facts about The Eliminate Project

The Kiwanis worldwide service project has its own Top 10.

These “Top 10” facts for The Eliminate Project were provided as of Nov. 16 by Ashley Meruani, USA 2 area director in The Eliminate Project campaign office in Kiwanis headquarters in Indianapolis (phone 317-217-6215).

1. We have saved or protected 40 million lives.
2. We have raised over $72.4 million (all figures in U.S. dollars).
3. Over 80 percent of all clubs around the world are participating in some way.
4. We have eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus in 35 countries.
5. Twenty-four countries still remain at risk for maternal and neonatal tetanus.
6. Just $1.80 is all it takes to save or protect a life.
7. That $1.80 includes three rounds of vaccine, as well as the cost of educating about safe birthing practices.
8. Now 839 clubs around the world are Model Clubs, pledging to raise on average $750 per member over five years.
9. Clubs can pledge fundraising goals until the end of the Kiwanis International Convention in June 2015, giving them until June of 2020 to complete their pledges.
10. We will reach our goal of $110 million, but we need your help; the women and babies of the world are counting on us! History is waiting. Time is not!

Leaders through the years

Strong leaders through the first 100 years of Kiwanis have kept momentum going for the service organization. As the centennial celebration got under way at the convention in Mobile, many past governors of the Alabama District gathered for a photo. From left are, front row: Sidney Lanier, Tammy Driskill, Karla Moons; second row: Ed Humphries, Colean Black, Bill Phillips; third row: Harry Hinson, Pam Fleming, Steve Cragon; fourth row: Bob McCurley, George Aiken, Wayne Sisk and Joel Williams. John Johnson also attended the convention in Mobile but is not pictured.

Centennial
(From Page 1)

Detroit celebration, along with District Secretary Pat Manasco and Past Governor Tammy Driskill, who has announced that she will be a 2015 candidate for the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees.

Kiwanis International and the Detroit No. 1 Club are planning a big celebration, starting with a Friday evening dessert reception at the Detroit Historical Museum on Jan. 23. Period attire is optional, but you can immerse yourself in the early 20th century and might even meet some characters from the past. Free shuttle service will be available to and from the official celebration hotel, the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

Saturday will begin in typical Kiwanis style: with service. Those attending can volunteer to help with the Detroit No. 1 Club’s signature project and add Kiwanis stickers to books that will be donated to area schools and organizations.

Saturday afternoon will be open for exploring Detroit on your own and visiting Greektown, the casinos, the Detroit Auto Show and other sights.

The evening of Saturday, Jan. 24, will feature the celebration of Kiwanis’ 100-year anniversary with a dinner and entertainment. KI president John Button will host the event at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, joined by Kiwanis leaders from around the world. Kiwanians will celebrate the past and launch into the next century.

Speaker Drew Dudley will address the audience with his thoughts on leadership. After dinner, the band Fifty Amp Fuse will lead guests on a musical journey.
Gadsden club holds annual ‘Pink Up Day’

The Kiwanis Club of Gadsden had a great showing for its annual “Pink Up Day.” For the past five years the club has asked members to wear pink and use this day to show love to those thought about every day. The club awards a local cancer support group a portion of its pancake day proceeds. The program was by “Never Surrender” from Advanced Imaging. Mary Hagen and Tara Fulford lead the way, one as a cancer survivor and one as the creative genius behind the Bras for the Cause auction and other fun activities to raise funds to help deserving people in need.

Magic City’s Shrimp Boil scheduled Dec. 5

The Kiwanis Club of Magic City Young Professionals’ annual Shrimp Boil is scheduled for Dec. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Moonlight on the Mountain in the Bluff Park area of Birmingham.

Highlights include a Gulf shrimp dinner, live and silent auctions, music, dancing and more. Advance tickets are $15 at magiccityypkiwanis.org. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for $20. For details, contact Kyle Pierce at kyle@magiccityypkiwanis.org.

This is the club’s largest fundraiser to provide service throughout Greater Birmingham to Key Clubs, Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, Circle K, childhood nutrition programs and more.

Fairhope cooks gumbo to raise funds for kids

Teams prepared their favorite gumbo recipes and fed hungry horde at the Kiwanis Club of Fairhope’s annual gumbo fundraiser Oct. 25. “The Best of the Bay” trophy went to the champion team of Ginger Poynter, with winners named in three categories as funds were raised for service.

Chairman Steven Rodriguez said they doubled the size of the event since last year and hope to do it again next year. All the money raised goes to support the children of Baldwin County through projects for schools, scholarship funds and after-school projects, he said.
Driskill installs Huntsville West officers, including her dad

Tammy Driskill of Gadsden, a past governor of the Alabama District, installed officers of the Huntsville West Kiwanis Club — including her dad, Doug Driskill, as president — at a luncheon Oct. 2. From left are Tammy Driskill, Doug Driskill, club secretary Barry Beavers, president-elect David Ely, treasurer Wendy Burpee, Division 1 Lt. Governor Charles Jones and immediate past president Richard Hartz. While there, Tammy Driskill also inducted Kureisha “Kay” Ford (photo below right) into the club. Kay was a member of Circle K at the University of Alabama at Birmingham during her undergraduate years and will now serve as Huntsville West’s representative to the Alabama A&M University CKI. Fifteen percent of the Huntsville West members are former CKI members. “We are always striving to get former SLP members into Kiwanis clubs, and Kay is our third such member,” said Doug Driskill.

Rogersville sponsors Fire & Life Safety event

The Kiwanis Club of Rogersville and the Volunteer Fire Department sponsored a Children’s Fire & Life Safety program during the Oct. 18 Fall Festival in downtown Rogersville.

The event included an obstacle course set up for children, as well as fingerprinting and meeting the police chief and force.

Face painting and costume parades for children and pets, a chili cook-off and antique car and truck show also were part of the day.

Safety officials speak at Helena symposium

The Kiwanis Club of Helena invited several public safety officials to speak during the Nov. 18 Kiwanis Holiday Safety Symposium at Helena Elementary School.

They gave advice on the types of crimes they are seeing and how citizens can protect themselves.

Monroeville Halloween

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville was one of many clubs and businesses with booths at the city-sponsored Halloween Bash downtown on Oct. 31. Here, past president Bob Crawford hands a treat to a boy.

Azalea City meets and greets Key clubs

Azalea City Kiwanis Club held a meet-and-greet with its sponsored Key Clubs at the home of Division 14 Lt. Governor Karla Moons and husband Larry Oct. 26.

Key Clubs from Alabama School of Math and Science, McGill-Toolen, St. Luke’s and Theodore were in attendance.

They shared ideas and plans for the year, and Key Club Lt. Governor Jacob Dennis discussed district Key Club projects.
It’s a party, and you’re invited to Tuscaloosa in August 2015

By Betty Whisenant
Lt. Governor, Division 4,
and president-elect,
Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club

We are planning a party in Tuscaloosa, and you are invited!

The Greater Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club and the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club are joining together to host a District Convention like no other.

The new, soon-to-be opened Embassy Suites will be the center of convention activities on Aug. 7-8, 2015.

That’s right — a two-day convention packed with a celebration of our glorious 100-year history of the whole Kiwanis family, as well as a celebration of our vision for the next 100 years of Kiwanians serving the children of the world.

A committee representing the two host clubs has been meeting and planning since February of this year in order to give you a special, definitely to be remembered, experience in Tuscaloosa at the 97th Alabama District Convention.

While some of the details are still in the works, we can promise you a family event convention with something for every member of Kiwanis and his or her family.

A children’s program is being planned that will leave the kids excited, entranced, and probably a bit tired. Spouses will have all sorts of opportunities in downtown Tuscaloosa but may choose to attend convention sessions which are going to feature five very special guest speakers. (Names are not available for release at this early date because we are awaiting confirmations.) Watch for more program details in the coming months.

The Embassy Suites is located in the center of downtown Tuscaloosa within walking distance of The Children’s Hands-on Museum, great antique shops, and an assortment of museums and galleries such as the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art and the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center. And you definitely want to visit the Bear Bryant Museum! Of course, you may choose to tour the University of Alabama campus while you are in T-town. Not into structured touring? Enjoy a relaxing stroll along the Tuscaloosa River Walk.

With multiple general sessions, and no breakout sessions, the whole convention will have the feel of one very elaborate extended celebration. Traditional activities such as the Interclub luncheon, the memorial service, installation of officers, etc., will all be incorporated into the celebration and make the familiar an integral part of the celebratory convention.

The convention will officially begin at 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7, with the District Foundation meeting and RIF meeting. The convention will adjourn at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, making for a very intense, activity-filled event. Embassy Suites is providing an early-bird convention rate of $135 for our convention, which will include cocktails on Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday morning. Should you wish to extend your stay in Tuscaloosa, the hotel will honor this same rate for Thursday night, Aug. 6, and Saturday night, Aug. 8.

Cake! Did someone ask about cake? Oh, definitely, cake will be part of the 100th anniversary celebration.

Tuscaloosa Kiwanians Tommy Smith and Betty Whisenant highlight the 100th birthday celebration and T-town attractions to draw members and their families to the Aug. 7-8, 2015, District Convention at the new Embassy Suites in Tuscaloosa.
Alabama District
Kiwanis history

This is the sixth in a series of articles on Alabama District Kiwanis history compiled by Bob McCurley, who has served as an Alabama District Kiwanis Governor and as a member of the boards of Kiwanis International and its foundation.

A timeline of Kiwanis clubs’ first 100 years

On the outside of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., that houses America’s Declaration of Independence and Constitution are the words “THE PAST IS PROLOGUE.”

Before our second century, a look back at significant dates in Kiwanis history is our prologue to the future.

1915 — Jan. 21, Kiwanis is founded in Detroit, Mich.
1916 — The first convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio, to approve the constitution and elect George Hixson as the president of the “National Kiwanis Club.” That same year, Kiwanis went international by chartering a club in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
1918 — Total membership reaches approximately 10,000 as the headquarters moved to Chicago.
1919 — May 21, Convention attendees in Birmingham, Ala., raise US$17,500 to buy Kiwanis from founder Allen Browne to make Kiwanis a civic organization.
1920 — Kiwanis coins the motto “We Build,” saying Kiwanis clubs build communities.
1924 — The six Objects of Kiwanis are adopted and remain unchanged to this day. Total membership reaches nearly 90,000, with more than 1,200 clubs.
1925 — Key Club Kiwanis begins at Sacramento High School in California.
1940 — Kiwanis International Foundation organized to celebrate Kiwanis’ 25th anniversary.
1947 — The first Circle K International club for college and university male students chartered.
1952 — Key Club charters its 1,000th club.
1962 — Tijuana Kiwanis Club, Baja California, Mexico, becomes the first club organized outside the United States and Canada.
1963 — The first club in Europe is organized, in Vienna, Austria.
1964 — Tokyo, Japan, joins Kiwanis as the first club in Asia.
1967 — Central/South America is organized as the first club in South America.
1968 — Kiwanis International Europe is formed.
1973 — Circle K opens its membership to women.
1975 — Builders Club becomes an official Kiwanis-sponsored program for young teens and the International convention in Atlanta, Ga., has record attendance of nearly 20,000.
1977 — Female membership in Key Clubs expanding to all its clubs in 1977.
1982 — Kiwanis International moves from Chicago to Indianapolis, Ind.
1983 — The first convention outside the United States and Canada is hosted in Vienna, Austria.
1987 — Female members are first admitted into Kiwanis clubs.
1989 — Miskolc, Hungary, becomes the first club in Eastern Europe.
1990 — Kiwanis adopts a permanent Major Emphasis Program, Young Children: Priority One.
1994 — Kiwanis adopts its first Worldwide Service Project, to eliminate Iodine Deficiency, and the International Foundation sets its goal to raise US$75 million for IDD.
1995 — Total membership in Kiwanis clubs around the world is 315,537.
1998 — “Serving the Children of the World” becomes the new International Foundation motto.
1999 — K-Kids joins the Kiwanis family as a service club for elementary school students.
2000 — Aktion Club, for adults living with disabilities, joins the Kiwanis family.

(See HISTORY, Page 11)

Send your annual club gift of at least $10 per member to the Kiwanis International Foundation
You can help Kiwanis gain strength and members through The Formula

By Jamie Brabston
District co-chair for The Formula team

The Formula is a multi-year, member-led initiative to strengthen Kiwanis membership in existing clubs and to expand Kiwanis’ reach to communities that do not yet have the benefit of a Kiwanis club.

We all love our clubs, and The Formula helps us to spread our message by sharing Kiwanis with others. We need you to join us! We have Formula team positions available all around our District and invite anyone with the least bit of interest in being involved in this formative mission to contact me or Colean Black, who has graciously agreed to co-chair The Formula team for The Alabama District.

Colean, who most of you know as a past governor and current Division 5 lieutenant governor, recently attended a district chair team meeting in Indianapolis and participated in planning and strategizing about The Formula mission and team engagement.

Colean and I need your help in identifying new team members so that we can complete our District Team. Training materials and resources will be provided to all team members, as well as assistance with travel expenses where needed.

The Formula is focused on changing our culture. Why? Because we are focused on achieving results that are different, positive and engaging for our members and the communities we serve. We are also focused on celebrating the success of members and communities as we move towards our goals.

As we work together — Formula team members, district leaders and all Kiwanians — let’s embrace cultural change. Join The Formula mission today!

Club counseling and club opening courses are now available online. Anyone joining the district team who was unable to attend a regional kickoff event or classroom session or who simply wants a refresher course can take a look at www.kiwanisone.org/cle.

Plan to join The Formula team at the Kiwanis International convention in Indianapolis June 25-28, 2015. There will be a Formula team meeting on Wednesday, June 24.

For more information, contact: Jamie Brabston, Alabama District Chair for The Formula, (256) 679-6341 or jamiem.brabston@gmail.com, or Colean Black at colean.black@alagasco.com.

Jamie Brabston

Dates to remember during 2015

Jan. 21, Historical 100th anniversary of Kiwanis
Jan. 23-24, 100th anniversary celebration, Detroit
Feb. 20-21, Mid-winter Conference, Prattville
June 25-28, Kiwanis International Convention, Indianapolis
Aug. 7-8, Alabama District Convention, Tuscaloosa

History (From Page 10)

2004 — Key Leader service leadership is introduced to teenage school students.
2005 — “Serving the Children of the World” becomes the new Kiwanis motto.
2010 — Kiwanis begins a second Worldwide Service Project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus and pledges to raise US$110 million through the Kiwanis International Foundation.
2015 — The 100th anniversary celebration is planned for the 2015 convention in Indianapolis, Ind., when Sue Petrisin becomes the first female Kiwanis International president.

“Alabama District of Kiwanis History: The first 100 years” will be published Jan. 21, 2015, to coincide with the 100th birthday of Kiwanis International.

There are many more “Kiwanis stories waiting to be told.” If you have anecdotes, stories or pictures you want to include in the Alabama District history or about the early days of your club, please send them to me, Bob McCurley, rlmccurley@gmail.com, or District Secretary Pat Manasco, patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net.

Put the Alabama District Convention in Tuscaloosa on your calendar: Aug. 7-8, 2015
One day in 1965 changed my life

Food manager for anniversary became international president

This article is provided by Kiwanis International for the 100th anniversary celebration year and features the experiences of Case Van Kleef, who was a young food service manager in 1965 and served as Kiwanis International president in 2004-05, during the 90th-anniversary year.

Boy, what a party it was — truly an event to remember.

I am talking about the 50th anniversary dinner of the Detroit No. 1 Kiwanis Club at Cobo Hall in January of 1965, attended by 4,200 Kiwanians and guests.

Reg Merridew, the president of the Detroit No. 1 Club, and his team did not leave a stone unturned to ensure attendance of at least 4,000 or more. I never experienced such commitment and enthusiasm from individuals as when I worked with them as the food service manager for Cobo Hall.

The club was vibrant, with approximately 200 members, and it met weekly in the main ballroom of the Statler Hilton Hotel in Detroit for lunch. Harry Young, the last living founder of Kiwanis, did not miss a meeting.

Soon after the anniversary celebration, I joined the Detroit No. 1 Club.

You see, Reg and I had an agreement that if he had 4,000 or more guests for dinner, I would join. We knew each other well, having worked together at Cobo Hall, where he was the exhibit and display manager.

When I saw the excitement and commitment of people at the reunion, that was enough of a reason to join, whatever the final attendance count turned out to be. I just never knew how this would change my life.

Kiwanis has been part of my life for

IN MEMORIAM

William L. ‘Bill’ Phillips Jr., 2013-14 district governor


The Kiwanis leader had been suddenly hospitalized for problems related to heart valve replacement about seven years earlier. He was 74.

A member of the Kiwanis Club of Pell City, he had served in many local and state Kiwanis offices since retiring from a career in engineering. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in 1965.

He was a member, deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Pell City. He was serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission of Pell City and was a member and officer of the Sons of American Revolution Cheaha Chapter.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Phillips; son, Bill Phillips III and his wife, Lori; sister, Martha Jane Ellington, and her husband, Coke; and grandchildren, Laura Phillips and Will Phillips IV. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Sadie Phillips.

Visitation was Oct. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Usrey Funeral Home in Pell City. The funeral service was at 2 p.m. Oct. 26 at First Baptist Church of Pell City with Dr. A.L. Courtney and Dr. John Thweatt officiating. Burial was in Cook Springs Cemetery.

Adrian Oliver Watson, 1997-98 district governor

Adrian Oliver Watson, 87, died at his home in Huntsville Nov. 12, 2014. He served as governor of the Alabama District in 1997-98 and was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West.

He was born in Birmingham on Dec. 15, 1926, to Joseph Oliver and Mattie Lynn Watson.

He served in the United States Navy during World War II and graduated from Auburn University in 1949 with a degree in electrical engineering. He lettered in baseball and pitched for the Auburn baseball team, earning the nickname “Fireball.” He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Following graduation he worked for Alabama Power Co. Then in 1956 he moved to Huntsville to begin his career with the Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, from which he retired. Mr. Watson was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Kathryn Watson; five children, John Austin Watson, Dianne Sharp (Grady), Trish Morrison (George), Bob Watson (Ginger), and Michael Watson (Laura); 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Kiwanians and other friends visited with the family between noon and 1 p.m. Nov. 14, with the service starting at 1 p.m. Burial was in Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, and Laughlin Service Funeral Home was in charge.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggested memorial donations to Kiwanis Club of Huntsville West or Trinity United Methodist Church.
Key Leader: an April event serving high school students

By Jamie Brabston
District Key Leader Coordinator

Registration for Key Leader 2015 will open soon. Now is the time to look for those “emerging leaders” in your community and spread the word about the most exciting Service Leadership opportunity of the year.

You’ve heard me say it a million times, but Key Leader really is a “not to miss” event!

Here are the details for Key Leader 2015:

- When? April 17-19, 2015
- Where? Camp ASCCA in Jackson’s Gap, Alabama
- Who? Open to all 8th- through 12th-graders
- How much? $250/student ($225 for Key Club students).* Two nights’ lodging, all meals and snacks, program materials, a cool T-shirt and fun!
- What? An amazing weekend that provides the 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. 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.

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.

The weekend is an awesome and rewarding experience for the adults, too! Note that all adult chaperones must register at least four weeks prior to the event to ensure timely completion of the necessary background checks.

Remember, online registration will open soon, but space is limited.

- Some scholarships may be available, but they will go quickly.
- Assistance with transportation may also be available.
- Interested in learning more? Please visit www.key-leader.org.

* Please note that these fees include an increase from last year. This is only the second time that Kiwanis International has increased the Key Leader fees in 10 years. Some scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so encourage early registration.

The story behind the picture

Take another look at the photo on the front page of this Kiwanis Kourier. During the celebration of Kiwanis’ 50th anniversary in 1965, Case Van Kleef, a young food service manager, can be seen in the photo between then International President EB Moylan Jr. and Harry Young, who at 83 was the last living founder of Kiwanis. Van Kleef became a Kiwanis member shortly after that picture was taken — and 39 years later became the 2004-2005 Kiwanis International president.

Almost 50 years now, and I could not envision my life without being a Kiwanian. Certainly, I never imagined one day serving as Kiwanis International president.

I am so grateful to have seen the many amazing service projects going on around the world, and the many Kiwanians worldwide who have become lifelong friends.

I was also fortunate to join the 75th anniversary celebration in Detroit, to be president during the 90th anniversary, and I’m looking forward to the 100th anniversary celebration in Detroit in January 2015.

To me, Kiwanis is not just a word, it is my life!
Aktion Club members met in Gadsden Oct. 18 for fellowship, food, fun and service. After sharing service ideas and carrying out several projects for the Chamber of Commerce, they had a pool safety class and went swimming.

Aktion Clubs meet for service, fun

By Glenda Selman
District Aktion Club Administrator

The Northern Region of Alabama Aktion Clubs held a conference in Gadsden Oct. 18 with more than 50 members participating from the Huntsville, Moody and Gadsden clubs.

During the conference, held at the Gadsden Etowah Chamber of Commerce, each club made a presentation about their projects, socials and plans for this year. Clubs shared great ideas about projects and socials and how they can raise money to fund them.

Several projects include visiting nursing homes with singing, parties and games, feeding the people at the Salvation Army and ringing bells at Christmas, and collecting tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Another interesting project shared was the Alabama vs. Auburn canned food drive for bragging rights.

During the morning break, Aktion Club members enjoyed snacks and played games.

Key Club Lt. Gov. Jeremy Ware attended and helped with set-up and games and made contacts for promoting Aktion Clubs and Key Clubs working together.

After lunch, the clubs divided into groups and completed three service projects for the Chamber of Commerce. They cleaned the outside and inside of the building, stuffed bags for a Chamber project, and put together items for a mail-out.

(See AKTION, Page 15)
**K-Family volunteers label a record 35,000 RIF books**

*By Patrice Stewart*

K-Family Day in the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental book warehouse in Opelika was a record-setting success Oct. 11.

"Many thanks to the more than 150 Circle K, Key Club and Kiwanis members who traveled from across the state to do some K-Family service," said Cathy Gafford, Jean Dean RIF executive director.

"Attendees this year set a new record by inventorying and putting bookplates in 35,000 RIF books to be distributed to at-risk young children in 2014-15," she said.

"K-Family volunteers working together always have a good time and get a lot of good done for those in need in Alabama. We serve about 25,000 children a year and couldn’t do it without your help," Gafford said.

K-Family members and other volunteers read the books to children in Head Starts and other sites, and each child served takes home three books a year with their name written inside on the bookplate.

Some participants drove great distances to support each other in service.

For example, the Alabama Circle K subregion trustee representative on the CKI board, Racheile Ricklets, drove from the University of Central Florida to help out, working at a table with Alabama Circle K Governor Jessica Bloom from Auburn University and Alabama Warrior Division Lt. Governor Sarah Kidwell from the University of Alabama.

A group from the University of North Alabama in Central Florida to help out, working at a table with Alabama Circle K Governor Jessica Bloom from Auburn University and Alabama Warrior Division Lt. Governor Sarah Kidwell from the University of Alabama.

A group from the University of North Alabama in

(See RIF VOLUNTEERS, Page 17)
Plan to attend the Alabama District Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 20-21, 2015

K-Family Day
Setting a record for RIF

More than 150 Circle K, Key Club and Kiwanis members came to Opelika from across the state to help out in the Reading Is Fundamental warehouse Oct. 11. K-Family Day attendees this year “set a new record by inventorying and putting bookplates in 35,000 RIF books to be distributed to at-risk young children in 2014-15,” said Cathy Gafford, Jean Dean RIF executive director.

Photos by Patrice Stewart
Florence was labeling “Inch by Inch” books, while other college and high schools groups worked with other books. Devonte Haralson and Ryan Jones from Alabama State and others moved heavy boxes of books.

A group of 11, including Wiregrass Lt. Governor Danielle Hamilton, represented Troy University Circle K, although not as many came as usual because it was homecoming on campus. This group had a long day; they left early to head back to Troy, where their service continued late into the night. Their Circle K raised money for projects by cleaning the stadium after homecoming festivities, assisted by Troy Kiwanians.

Sixteen came to help from the University of Alabama Circle K, said David Womack of Tuscaloosa, who is Circle K district administrator.

He also was proud of the group of 11 from Alabama State University, who are brand new at this and led by ASU juniors Kimberly McWilliams, club president, and Shakeria Stewart, treasurer.

“They won’t even have their charter meeting until spring,” said Womack. “Kimberly was a high school Key Club member at Alexandria and got a scholarship. She’s been putting this new chapter together at ASU.”

Many Key Club members, such as Key Club Governor Kacie Hines and Division 10 Lt. Governor Lexey Monceaux from Evangel Christian School, also helped out at work tables that included Key Club Administrator George Price and Governor-elect Bob Palys.

Billy Martin of Valley Kiwanis Club and Rusty Sheehan of the Opelika Kiwanis Club were among those helping out in the warehouse. An interclub came from the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club: David Womack, immediate past president Robert Lanoux, Kathie Thurman and Rodney Kipp. Wedowee Kiwanis had four volunteering, too: Sid and Jo Ann Lanier and Ed and Gail Deering.

With 125 helping, about 20,000 books had been labeled by time for a lunch break.
Three J. Mercer Barnett Fellow RIF awards were presented to Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental supporters Oct. 11 by Cathy and Doug Gafford.

The RIF director explained their contributions and gave out the Barnett plaques after Kiwanians finished their catered barbecue lunch at First Methodist Church in Opelika on K-Family Day.

The first Barnett honor went to Billy Martin of the Valley Kiwanis Club. “He has made RIF at least 1½ million labels to go inside our books for children and has been a dear friend to RIF for over 20 years,” Gafford said. His plaque said “in recognition of outstanding service to Jean Dean RIF and the Alabama District.”

The others honored were daughter Meg Gafford Beard and son-in-law Tom Beard.

“Meg was 4 years old when we started Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental,” Gafford said of the program named for her late mother. “Meg learned to count while counting books to be shipped” and grew up with the K-Family and helping RIF.

About her son-in-law, Gafford said she knew him first as a friend — and one who has often helped her out with his information technology skills because she is “technologically challenged.”

Watching the presentations was the Beards’ 17-month-old son Luke, the only grandchild of the Gaffords and a great-grandson of Past Governor Joe Dean.

“We figure Luke will be over at the warehouse working by the end of the year,” Gafford said.

Run to Read 2014 was unquestionably the coldest RIF Run ever but still very successful, said Cathy Gafford, executive director of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

“Runners competed in Opelika on Nov. 1 with 33-degree temperatures and 22-mile-an-hour winds, but everyone still had a great time and we netted over $6,500,” said Gafford.

That will help buy well over 2,200 books for at-risk young children across Alabama, she noted.

The 2014 Run to Read “was a success thanks to our great run director, Opelika Kiwanian Rich Bailey, our faithful sponsors, volunteers, runners/walkers and a supportive community,” Gafford said. “The 10K and 5K runners still enjoyed the well-planned route in historic Northside Opelika, as did our walkers on their course.”

The Opelika mayor was in attendance, as was featured author and Dadeville Kiwanian Dean Bonner, Gafford said. Runners, walkers and supporters also enjoyed the Auburn University Equestrian Team, Clifford the Big Red Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog.

Hold this date for the Alabama District of Kiwanis annual

Mid-winter Conference
Feb. 20-21, 2015
Marriott Legends Hotel and Conference Center, Prattville
Watch your email for information on registration, or contact the District Office, phone 205-945-1334

Have questions? Call the Kiwanis District Office in Birmingham at 205-945-1334
## 2014–15 Distinguished Programs

**Members/Clubs/Divisions/Districts**

*Based on the Six Objects of Kiwanis, The Global Initiative and The Eliminate Project*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Membership Growth Existing Clubs</strong></td>
<td>Did the club have a net increase in membership? <em>A club must be at charter strength, 15 or more members to qualify.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Club Growth Initiative</strong></td>
<td>Did the club sponsor or co-sponsor a new Kiwanis club?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership Education</strong></td>
<td>Did the club’s officers participate in Club Leadership Education?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Attendance</strong></td>
<td>Was the club represented by a member at one Division meeting and one of the following: Mid-year-or Zone - Conference, District- or Regional-Convention or Kiwanis International Convention?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Community Service</strong></td>
<td>Did the club provide service projects or programs for children of the community?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Community Service</strong></td>
<td>Did the club support The Eliminate Project and or the Kiwanis International Foundation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Leadership Programs</strong></td>
<td>Did the club sponsor a Service Leadership Program or contribute to the District/Nation foundation?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mark the reached stars! The club must have 6 stars out of 7 to be a **Distinguished Club**. Distinguished Clubs receive: President lapel pin, Distinguished Club banner patch and certificate.

*Total Stars*

**Division** must have 1 new club at minimum, or net increase in membership in each club to be a **Distinguished Division**. Divisions achieving distinguished status will receive: Distinguished Lt. governor lapel pin.

**District** must have a net increase in membership and achieve a ranking in the top 25% of all districts in each region to be a **Distinguished District**. The ranking of districts will be based on percentage of growth. Districts achieving distinguished status will receive: Distinguished Governor and Secretary lapel pin, Distinguished District Certificate, and special recognition during the 2016 Kiwanis International Convention. **Presidential Citation Certificate** will be awarded to the top 25% of all district and Kiwanis nations not achieving Distinguished District status.

**Distinguished Member** must sponsor 2 new members and participate in 2 Kiwanis service projects. Distinguished Members will receive a letter from the 2014-15 Kiwanis International President and a Distinguished Member lapel pin.

Send your annual club gift of at least $10 per member to the Kiwanis International Foundation.