Kiwanians from around the state will hold their 94th annual meeting

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier Editor

Kiwanians from all over the state are invited to bring their families and guests to the Alabama District Convention July 27-29 in Montgomery, where they can check out the many new sights, museums and nightlife near the riverfront.

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery will host this 94th annual District Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 300 Tallapoosa St., where a breakfast buffet and evening reception are included for hotel guests.

A Friday evening barbecue dinner and Saturday interclub luncheon are included in the registration fee.

The jazz ensemble from Booker T. Washington Magnet High School in Montgomery will entertain at the barbecue dinner.

The luncheon speaker will be Kiwanis International board member Jane Erickson, who led the KI committee marking 25 years of women in Kiwanis this year.

Incoming officers for 2012-13 will be installed during the Saturday evening governor’s banquet, which requires a separate ticket.

The Friday evening barbecue will be held at the Montgomery Visitors’ Center, which is adjacent to the hotel, (See MONTGOMERY, Page 19)

Brian Rodgers says he’ll run for vice governor

Brian Rodgers, who earned “Distinguished” status for his efforts as a Birmingham area lieutenant governor, has announced he will be a candidate for vice governor at the Alabama District Convention in Montgomery July 25-27.

The vice governor position is designed to lead up to governor-elect and then governor in 2014-15, following Wayne Sisk in 2012-13 and Bill Phillips in 2013-14. No other candidates had announced plans as of July 1.

Rodgers joined the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook in 2001 and served as a board member, webmaster and Reading Is Fundamental chairman. As president, he earned “Distinguished” status, and he was recognized with a Hixson Fellow for his service. He recently became a member of the Kiwanis Club of Metro Hoover.

Rodgers served the Alabama District as a lieutenant governor, again earning “Distinguished” honors. He is (See RODGERS, Page 14)
Alabama’s Driskill swaps ideas with fellow female governors

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier Editor

When Tammy Driskill started climbing the Alabama District officer ladder several years ago, she did not realize that she would be governor during the 25th anniversary year of women in Kiwanis.

“I had no idea then, but I think it’s so cool. I’ve made friendships with other women governors who I think I’ll be friends with the rest of my life,” said Driskill, 2011-12 governor. “We can go out and have fun, support each other in service, and share the issues that come up in overseeing a district.”

She said it helps “to have someone to bounce ideas off of, such as whether boards ought to be more supportive or less supportive of clubs and what to bring home to try with our folks.”

For example, she learned from her friend and Texas-Oklahoma Governor Susan Hennum about their strong background check program, where every Kiwanian gets a background check.

And from another buddy, New England District Governor Vesta Browne, the Alabama governor learned about how the family membership plan works. “They tried something new when they did a trial run of the family membership idea, and they think it has helped increase their membership in the New England District,” Driskill said.

“We don’t all need to be cookie cutters,” she noted, but it’s good to hear from others around the country about how a new program worked.

Driskill, 53, a bankruptcy attorney in Gadsden, first joined the Metro Birmingham Kiwanis Club in April 1997. The next year she moved to Gadsden, where the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden put her to work. She was vice president, president-elect and president, along with working on many projects.

Then Driskill served as lieutenant governor and later as district Key Leader administrator. She earned Distinguished honors as president and lieutenant governor before being elected to move into the lineup for governor. She is the fourth female to serve the Alabama District as governor over about a decade.

“My class of KI governors is the one that kicked off the Eliminate Project,” she said. “I hope more Kiwanians will step up to be club coordinators, etc., because I think there’s a lot more education that has to take place before we can raise what we need to eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus.”

Driskill is proud of the celebrations marking 25 years of women in Kiwanis that have taken place this year – and especially her idea for the event the Alabama District held in Prattville during the February Midwinter Conference.

“It gave us a reason to get back to (See GOVERNORS, Page 3)
Governors
(From Page 2)

those Friday night dinners — I think that’s important — and I hope that next year we can get back to giving recognitions on Friday night.”

Her women friends and fellow governors have reminisced and held special activities in their districts to observe the 25th anniversary.

New Jersey

Rosemarie Gibardi, governor of the New Jersey District, said they held a brunch at McLoone’s at the beach in April. Ten of the 50 attendees were celebrating 25 years, and they recognized them with the Legion of Honor award.

“No one mentioned this was coming up two years ago when I ran for governor-elect,” said Gibardi, who is the third woman governor of the New Jersey District.

“This is a special year. You have a lot of obstacles and hurdles you’ve got to jump, but you hope your membership will be up and you’ll walk away having had a successful year.”

Gibardi, 59, did not waste any time before becoming governor. “In seven years I was club president, secretary, lieutenant governor twice, governor-elect and governor,” she said. “And I’ve been sitting on boards for ages.”

She was in Kiwanis in New York for two years and in New Jersey for seven years. She is the charter president of the Marlboro, N.J., club, because she decided to start her own club when she moved to New Jersey. She has built three clubs.

Her husband, John Gibardi, said the first two women governors of New Jersey were widows, so he “became the first first gentleman.” He became a charter member of a new club.

New England

Vesta Browne of Longmeadow, Mass., recalled the early days when it was often difficult for a woman to join Kiwanis. She was a high-school teacher of business education and also adviser to the Key Club. When she went to a Kiwanis meeting to talk to them about the Key Club, they said she couldn’t speak because she was not a member of the club.

“So I joined the club in 1999, and boy, were they sorry, because then I talked and talked,” said Browne. They would tell “dumb blonde” jokes, and she would counter with “how many men does it take to screw in a light-bulb” type humor.

She has served as co-president and lieutenant governor and is now in a New England internet club (Sheffield-Springfield eKiwanis).

“After I retired from teaching, I thought ‘I could do this’ (governor),” she said. “And I’m still very involved with Key Club.

“Making sure every child’s needs are fulfilled no matter what his background – it’s something I believe in strongly.”

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Texas-Oklahoma

Susan L. Hennum, governor of Texas-Oklahoma, was one of the first women to join Kiwanis. She will have 25 years in February 2013, and she was presented the Legion of Honor at the New Orleans convention.

Her lieutenant governors decided to call Tom, her husband of two years, “the First Dude,” and he loves it, she said. He just joined the Richardson Kiwanis Club in February (they are in different clubs) and helps out on the district’s “Geek Squad.”

For four years Hennum, 53, was a member of the Richardson club, while her daughter was in middle school. She had originally joined the Garland, Texas, club and has returned to it.

Hennum served as president three times, lieutenant governor and governor. Her district project was collecting shoes for the needy, and she most enjoys working with elementary children on service.

“My whole focus has been on kids,” said Hennum, who was Ki chair for K-Kids, as well as district administrator for K-Kids and for Builders Clubs.

The Texas-Oklahoma aim this year has been creating a movement of Kiwanis change. “I want everyone to see that Kiwanis is about service, not food,” Hennum said.

For the 25th anniversary of women, Hennum and her district have been highlighting the service of Texas-Oklahoma female Kiwanis members all year. They have also created scholarships for high-school leadership conferences, shirts and other merchandise for the 25-year celebration, and put money to work supporting at-risk children.

The Class of 2011-12 has six other female governors. They are from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Nebraska-Iowa, Eastern Canada and the Caribbean, Ecuador, and New Zealand-South Pacific.

Sharing time in the exhibit hall at the 25th anniversary of women in Kiwanis booth are, from left, Susan Hennum, Tammy Driskill and Rosemarie Gibardi, governors of Texas-Oklahoma, Alabama and New Jersey.

Alabama Governor Tammy Driskill waves from the stage as she is introduced in New Orleans.
Anniston Kiwanian Dr. Warren Sarrell has helped more than 350,000 children

By Sherry Kughn

When it comes to improving children’s dental health, Kiwanian Dr. Warren Sarrell, a retired cardiologist from Anniston, has made milestones.

He founded a dental center to help under-served children that has grown to include 14 facilities throughout Alabama. They are called the Sarrell Dental Centers, and they have helped more than 350,000 children since opening in 2004 in Anniston.

Included in that number are children in Alabama’s rural areas who have received full dental-care services through a mobile unit.

Sarrell’s program has become a model studied by other states. A program that was to air June 26 on the Public Broadcasting Service, presented by “Frontline,” explains how Sarrell and the centers’ CEO, Jeff Parker, and their staff achieved such success. One key element is through patient education.

Club member since 1954

Sarrell also has improved the lives of thousands of other children throughout his long membership in the Anniston Kiwanis Club. He first became a member in 1954, back when “Popeye” comic strip artist Tom Sims was president.

Since then, Sarrell and fellow Kiwanians have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through ticket sales for the club’s annual Kiwanis Pancake Day fundraiser. The Back-to-School project helps children in Calhoun County obtain new clothes, shoes and coats for the start of each school year.

During the years prior to the Pancake Day program, Sarrell and his fellow Kiwanians raised money to help children by selling tickets to a travel series shown with a filmstrip projector.

Dr. Sarrell, an octogenarian of slight build and a kind, quiet voice, sat down one sunny April afternoon in his East Anniston home and looked back at his life. He talked about several of his past projects, none as vast in scope as the dental centers, but important nonetheless.

Driver-education program

One program he started likely saved the lives of several teenagers. While working as a physician, he said he grew concerned about the large numbers of youths killed in car wrecks. He met with city leaders and educators and instituted a driver-education program for students at Anniston High School. His program ended when driver-education courses became part of the curriculum for students.

“Even of late,” said Dr. Sarrell, “I have been talking to others about getting some video games in schools to improve students’ driving skills.”

He also recalled how, about 13 years ago, he helped institute another program for students, engaging his fellow Kiwanians to take part in a tutoring/reading program in Anniston. Today, about a dozen Kiwanians still visit various Anniston schools on a regular basis to spend 30 minutes to an hour tutoring students or reading to them.

Dr. Sarrell’s dedication to improving the lives of children inspires awe among fellow Kiwanians. They help carry out his ideas, and they know him as a friend.

One such friend is the lieutenant governor for Division 7 of the Alabama District of Kiwanis. Paul Jackson, who lives in Anniston, describes Dr. Sarrell as a great leader and humanitarian.

“I admire him,” said Jackson. “He has great ideas and knows how to make them work, how to get things done.”

Parker, the centers’ CEO, said he has never met anyone else like Dr. Sarrell.

“He inspires me by the way he leads his life and by his caring attitude toward others,” said Parker during an inter-

(See DOCTOR, Page 5)
The next Kiwanis International Convention will be in Vancouver, B.C., June 27-30, 2013

Doctor
(From Page 4)

view at the Anniston Sarrell Center’s office. “The only time he was ever mad at me was when I named the clinics after him.”

Dr. Sarrell talked about his own childhood during the interview. He was raised during the 1930s and 1940s on a 17-acre farm in Copperhill, Tenn. There were many children growing up around him, both siblings and cousins.

GI Bill for med school

Life was modest then, Dr. Sarrell said. He described it as rich in happiness, hard work and lots of playing. When many of the children on the farm grew up, including Dr. Sarrell, they were tapped for service in World War II. He served in the U.S. Navy, and after the war ended he used the GI Bill to earn a degree at Cornell Medical School in New York City.

Later, he returned to service for his country during the Korean War.

He and Martha Jean Pope were married in 1950 before he went to Korea. After the war, he returned to Emory University in Atlanta for specialized training in cardiology.

He and Martha moved to Anniston in 1954. He established a private practice and worked to establish a special heart unit at what was then Anniston Memorial Hospital. They had five children, and she focused on raising them until, after 17 years of marriage, she developed melanoma and died.

Dr. Sarrell had to give up his community work as a Kiwanian for a few years to raise and support his children. About 1970, he met a teacher of pediatric nursing, Lela Blocker, and they later married. He credits her with his success, because she “took on an old man and five children” and gave up her career as a nurse and a teacher.

Dr. Sarrell worked with the Anniston hospital, which had become Regional Medical Center, to help establish the first heart catheterization lab in Anniston — the first, in fact, in Alabama. He also began to focus on his community work again and rejoined Kiwanis at the invitation of Charlie Fuller.

He and Lela later had a daughter of their own, and they now enjoy spending time with 15 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. The entire family often spends time at their place on a lake in Heflin, where he has taught the grandchildren to fly fish.

“I don’t know why I love children so well,” he said. “I guess I was always used to being around kids.”

Motivation for clinics

Dr. Sarrell’s faith comes into play when he talks about the success of the dental clinics.

“This has been the greatest blessing,” he said. “God started this thing, and he is looking after it. I told Jeff that (God was in this) the first time I met him.”

Dr. Sarrell attributes part of the success of the dental centers to his Kiwanis club. They pledged $10,000 per year for the first three years, but after two years, the center no longer needed the Kiwanis money, and it was diverted to other programs.

Money was not the only thing his fellow Kiwanians gave him.

“They encouraged me,” he said. He picked up a cane that had been leaning against the couch and stood to walk toward an office where his Kiwanis awards hung, allowing his photo to be made among the plaques and framed news clippings.

His honors include Kiwanian of the Year from the Anniston Kiwanis Club in 1969; Outstanding Service Award as chairman of the Driver Education Project from Anniston Kiwanis in 1973; George Hixson Fellow of Kiwanis International in 2000; and the Alabama District of Kiwanis J. Mercer Barnett Fellow honor in 2005.

There are other honors, but Dr. Sarrell was more comfortable talking about the dental centers or his own children’s accomplishments.

As he walked slowly back to the living room, a telephone began ringing. A female voice left a message, and he smiled.

“That’s one of my daughters,” he said. “She’s worried about me, but I’ll call her back later.”

Weathering storms

Dr. Sarrell also talked of the struggles involved in seeking to improve the cardiac unit at RMC and how he worked with the hospital leaders to bring in doctors and equipment to

(See DOCTOR, Page 6)
make the unit an outstanding facility. He recalled the hard work involved in starting the dental centers and how he obtained help initially from local dentists. He remembered having to raise money for the remodeling of the old Medical Arts Building in Anniston, which still houses the Anniston center. There and at some other sites, eye clinics have been added through the years.

He said he was unsure, in the initial months after the dental center started, how it would succeed. But Dr. Sarrell persevered, sometimes contributing his own money toward the project. Soon, Sarrell Dental Centers were up and going, aided by a contract with the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Dental School.

There was still controversy, though, with several dentists objecting to the existence of Sarrell Dental Centers. That ultimately led to the end of the UAB/Sarrell partnership in 2010. A lawsuit was filed, and the resulting publicity caught the attention of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, which intervened on the side of Dr. Sarrell.

In the meantime, a bill that would settle all issues and ensure the right of the Sarrell Dental Centers to exist was introduced in the Alabama Legislature. The bill passed unanimously. In a gesture of goodwill, the Centers dropped their lawsuit the day after the bill officially became law.

Now, Parker hires dentists, hygienists, assistants and managers to provide quality care.

“The Alabama Legislature unanimously approved the bill (to allow a dental clinic to be owned by a non-dentist),” said Dr. Sarrell, “voting 90 to zero.” He smiled. Then he told how Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, who is also a retired physician, signed the bill into law. Dr. Sarrell is glad that the centers are now free to continue serving children throughout the state.

**Perseverance pays off**

Dr. Sarrell said knowing he has helped children has made his life worth living, and he is happy thinking that his own children are proud of him. The success of the dental centers has been an unexpected and rewarding experience.

Another fellow Kiwanian, retired Gen. Gerald Watson, said he is amazed how much time Dr. Sarrell has contributed to Kiwanis projects.

“It is phenomenal what he has done,” said Watson, “both in giving to Kiwanis and to so many people.”

Watson, who is a member of Anniston Kiwanis because of Dr. Sarrell’s invitation, said he has enjoyed knowing the doctor as a friend.

“He truly practices what he believes in,” said Watson. “He’s an unusual man to have done so much work for others.”

*(Sherry Kughn is a writer for The Anniston Star.)*
Weekend cultivates young leaders

By Jamie Brabston
Key Leader Administrator,
Alabama District

It was an amazing weekend. The 2012 Alabama District Key Leader event was a great success!

More than 50 students attended from all over the state, and many have already expressed interest in attending Key Leader again next year.

Students attended from Divisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 10. Divisions 1, 5 and 10 each sent more than 10 students to Key Leader. Amazing!

The students’ own feedback 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, hopefully as a student facilitator.”
■ “I had an awesome time at Key Leader and plan on returning in the future.”
■ “I’m so grateful I got this opportunity and I would definitely want to come back.”
■ “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!”
■ “I wish we didn’t have to leave so early. I feel like the people here are my family and like I knew them forever.”

As you can see, the students who attended had fun, made friends, learned how to become better leaders and to improve their communities – that is what Key Leader is all about.

Key Leader would not have been successful without the dedication of the entire Alabama District Leadership team, who spread the word, recruited students and also provided financial support for students. Thank you all.

We appreciate the time and enthusiasm of the five students who participated as student facilitators: Jeremiah Stone, Ashlyn Ede, Steven Griffith, Nichole Morris and Will Palmisano.

The other students enjoyed and were rewarded by their leadership.

We also appreciate the financial support of the Key Club and the Foundation for their generous financial scholarships which aided several students to be able to attend, who otherwise may not have been able to do so.

Of course, Key Leader cannot happen without the dedication of many adult chaperones. We were so fortunate to have amazing chaperones who gave up an entire weekend to devote to our emerging leaders.

First, site coordinator Michael Hodge deserves recognition for his enthusiastic promotion of Key Leader all year. He also engaged the support of two wonderful Army recruiters, Capt. Meagan Florea and Sgt. James Edwards, who drove a van to the event with 10 students from North Alabama. Sgt. Florea and Captain Edwards spent the weekend with us as two of our chaperones and their presence was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and adults alike.

We are thankful for the Army’s continued support of Key Leader, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Army and Kiwanis International last year. Their “gift” to all students through the “march2success” program, which provides a free resource for students that includes SAT and ACT preparation work and practice tests, is extremely generous and beneficial.

The rest of our fabulous Key Leader team of chaperones/volunteers also brought their own gifts, talents and diversity, including great attitudes and flexibility! We absolutely could not have gotten by without Kim and Jeff Clark, Betsy Hodo, Charissa Lambert, Melissa Purdy, John Wanschek, Alan West, Kevin Yates and Sabrina Young. They exemplify the meaning of Key Leaders!

With sadness, I recognize and honor one of our precious volunteers and a dear friend, Ted Brostrom, who passed away May 1. In fact, after eight years of battling cancer, Ted spent his last days with us, in service at the Key Leader weekend. We were so blessed to know Ted and spend his last days with him, serving the youth of our district.

In case you’re still asking yourself “What is Key Leader?” …

Key Leader is Kiwanis International’s service leadership program for students in eighth through 12th grades. It is a fun-filled weekend event comprised of small and large group activities, interactive events, and presentations from a professional facilitator that focus on servant leadership. It is an incredible opportunity for “emerging leaders” who need that extra push to become true leaders in their schools and communities.

We have not set the date for 2013 but anticipate that it will be in late April. Space is limited to 60-70 participants, so make plans now to sponsor and encourage the emerging leaders in your community to attend.

And remember, Key Leader is open to all students, not just those who are already serving in Key Club or Builders Club. In fact, one of our Key Leader participants this year has initiated the process for starting a Key Club at her high school.

For more information, visit www.key-leader.org or contact me, Jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com (256-679-6341).
Key Leader Conference
Columbiana, April 27-29, 2012

Photos by Patrice Stewart and Kevin Yates

Have questions? Call the District Office in Birmingham toll-free at 1-800-745-1334
The inaugural “Children Are Our Future” Gala sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Vulcan in Birmingham was a big success, raising $3,500 for scholarships and youth programs, according to club president Luther Jarmon Jr.

The event, held May 18 at Boutwell Auditorium, began with a reception to meet the honorees, followed by a silent auction.

**Silent auction**

The silent auction was led by Chris Osborne, regional communications officer of the American Red Cross in Birmingham and former award-winning reporter and videographer at Birmingham’s ABC affiliate.

Jordan Frazier, gala chairperson, opened the program with a welcome. Sponsors and contributors were recognized by Mistress of Ceremony Sherri Jackson, an award-winning journalist and weekday anchor for CBS 42 News at 5, 6 and 10 p.m.

Jarmon presented the Kiwanis mission. A highlight was a moving rendition of “The Greatest Love of All” by Cameryn Carlisle, a member of the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club.

**Honorees, singers**

The gala honored Larry D. Thornton, president and owner of Thornton Enterprises Inc., for his numerous contributions to the community.

“As a McDonald’s franchisee who owns and operates five McDonald’s restaurants, Larry provides opportunities, jobs and careers for numerous youth,” said Jarmon.

Also honored was the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club, “which helps youth of all backgrounds, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, become responsible citizens and caring adults,” he said.

Jarmon said the evening was capped by “a heart-stopping concert by one of Birmingham’s premier entertainers, Belinda George Peoples, an electrifying performer with outstanding talents as a vocalist and an actress.”

Her talents have taken her across the nation to entertain at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., a White Sox baseball game in Chicago and the SWAC championship game in Atlanta, as well as overseas to countries such as Spain and Sweden.

The meal was provided by Creative Catering by Ambrosia.

Jarmon said the success of the event was due to the event planners, Gloria Dennard and Janice Jefferson.
Clubs use many funding strategies to help moms, babies beat tetanus

By David Beasley
Alabama District Eliminate Coordinator

Congratulations go to the Kiwanis Club of Tri-Cities Florala for raising $1,635 for the Eliminate Project to save lives worldwide by battling maternal and neonatal tetanus with immunizations.

Deborah Stokes, club secretary, reported that 55 people attended a $25-per-person dinner June 1 at the Havana House in Florala. The RSVP-only dinner included appetizers, meal and dessert and offered a wine station and a beer station. Music and dancing by the pool also were enjoyed.

Tri-Cities Florala is a club of 19 members. Contact Deborah Stokes (shebboop@yahoo.com) for more information.

The Florence club brought in over $200 for the Eliminate Project by eating out at the local Texas Roadhouse. Once a quarter, the restaurant offers not-for-profit organizations a 10-percent donation on total sales for people who present an invitation to dine at the Roadhouse. This was the club’s second such event.

Jim Durrett and I met with the Kiwanis Club of Jasper June 4 to discuss the Eliminate Project. I also spoke to a church group June 6 about Eliminate’s potential as a church ministry.

More volunteers needed

A conference call for the Alabama Eliminate team brought together 12 Alabama Kiwanians to discuss methods of strengthening our project.

Each club needs to appoint a club coordinator to manage and encourage Eliminate activities within the club. Volunteers are needed for these important club positions.

Your division coordinators are: Susan Anderson, Jim Durrett, Jim Jaynes, Armand St. Raymond, Hammond Cobb, Teri Williams, Thomas Lott, Patricia Bedgood and Kim Bush.

Thank you, Hammond Cobb III. Hammond has been successful in recruiting five club coordinators for the seven clubs in Division 9: Phil Knight, Neva Conway, John Burch, Whit Moncrief and Percy Blackmon.

Other club coordinators are Michael Broder, Bob Renie, Vernon Crowe, Kathy Allredge and Paul England.

Alabama District Eliminate multi-divisional coordinators are: Ernest Hulsey for Divisions 1-7 and Teri Williams for Divisions 9, 10, 11. We still have volunteer slots vacant for Divisions 8, 12, 13 and 14.

Be part of solving a worldwide problem and saving millions of lives! You can do so by saving and donating $2 per week to Eliminate. A donation of $2 per week from now until 2015 will save at least 173 lives. Checks for larger amounts are also appreciated.

We have the technology to save lives from maternal/neonatal tetanus. We can eliminate the disease and prevent millions from suffering an excruciatingly painful death.

Educate your club about Eliminate with an old-fashioned spelling bee. This will provide a humorous program and inform members about the Eliminate Project.

Add a birthday gift for the person who has everything by donating a gift to Eliminate in that person’s honor. Contact me for details about how to do the spelling bee and the birthday card.

Progress made

Alabama’s pledges and donations to Kiwanis International’s Eliminate Project now exceed $215,000!

The worldwide funding total as of May 10 was $11,847,186. That is an increase of about $800,000 for one month and can save more than 6,581,770 lives.

Because of the progress in fundraising for Eliminate, Kiwanis International Foundation has transferred $700,000 to UNICEF. This will save and protect 388,889 mothers and their future babies from maternal and neonatal tetanus.
**Big time, big plans in Big Easy**

Highlights of Kiwanis International meeting in New Orleans

**By Patrice Stewart**
Kiwanis Kourier Editor

Jazz and hurricanes. Beignets and café au lait. New officers, new ideas and new beginnings.

Here are some of the highlights from the Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans June 27-July 1....

- Hearing the smoking-hot jazz of the Big Easy’s Smoking Time Jazz Club talented musicians, singers and dancers, who performed at the opening session. The next day, candidates for KI office campaigned with bands and jazz tunes in the Ernest Morial Convention Center lobby and Atrium Café while Kiwanians downed lunches with Cajun flavors. Branford Marsalis and his saxophone in the first half and Aaron Neville and his songs in the second thrilled Kiwanians attending a ticketed concert Friday night. And the musical highlight of the closing session was Cajun fiddler Amanda Shaw from the movie “Hurricane on the Bayou.” Those still wanting more headed for Cajun music and dancing at Mulate’s, hurricanes in the piano bar or courtyard at Pat O’Brien’s, Preservation Hall, Bourbon Street and other nightspots.

- Seeing photos of the teddy bear that traveled with Kiwanis International president Alan Penn and wife Jeri from Medina, Ohio, during 2011-12, both overseas and in the United States. One of their photos showed the duct-taped bear after he was kidnapped and held for ransom money to benefit a project. Kiwanis Bear visited with children at all types of fundraisers and camps and entertained adults, too.

- Hearing plans and priorities for 2012-13 of KI president-designate Tom DeJulio of Bronxville, N.Y., who wants Kiwanians to connect, inspire and advocate. He and his wife, Rosemary, honored a niece with a Zeller award and invited a children’s choir to sing at the close of the convention. “Our mission next year is to make children healthier and happier,” he said, asking Kiwanians to reconnect, “because now is not the time to rest; the children are depending on us.” DeJulio added, “The future of the world’s children is our future, too.” A former Key Club and Circle K member, DeJulio has been a Kiwanian since 1973 and served as a distinguished club president, lieutenant governor and New York District governor before joining the Kiwanis International Board in 2005.

- Seeing Alabama District Kiwanians shine on stage: Pam Fleming of Sheffield as she was recognized as a KI board trustee completing a three-year term, introducing others and participating in the celebration of women members; Tammy Driskill of Gadsden introduced one as one of the 2011-12 class of governors; Armand St. Raymond accepting a plaque for his Kiwanis Club of Birmingham as a major contributor to the Eliminate project; Ed and Olivia Humphries of Dadeville introduced with the Kiwanis International Foundation board; Russ Dunnman of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery on a workshop panel sharing sponsorship insights for fundraising projects.

- Sharing in the observance marking 25 years since women were admitted to Kiwanis (story and photos on Page 13).

- Being entertained while learning about service and more from keynote speakers Sean and Leigh Ann Tuohy of Memphis, who reached out to offer a young man hope, love and opportunity. They changed his life and theirs and ended up with a book and movie called “The Blind Side.” She challenged Kiwanians to “continue what you’re doing, do more, and don’t ever, ever, ever give up.” Closing session speakers were James Carville and Mary Matalin of New Orleans, a husband and wife who are authors, political consultants and broadcast commentators on both sides of the political fence.

- Hearing about the successes of the Eliminate Project from KI Eliminate chairman Randy DeLay, who said more than $14 million has been raised so far, and he is seeing membership growth along with it. The Eliminate team is 2,500 strong and growing. “Get involved to enrich your life, to add passion to Kiwanis and to save lives of mothers and babies,” he said. During the convention, an Eliminate walk raised more than $72,750 and saved or protected more than 40,400 lives.

- Checking out dozens of exhibits and workshops to make the Kiwanis experience better, along with many designed to improve your life, such as clinical therapist Jenny Craig’s presentation on 10 steps to make a positive impact. In the exhibit hall, there were plenty of opportunities to meet and greet, with everyone from fitness guru Richard Simmons, whose brother Lenny is a member of Kiwanis (story and photos on Page 12).
New Orleans
(From Page 11)

Kiwanis in New Orleans, to Kiwanians from around the world and even a service dog at one booth.

- Sharing sessions with Circle K and being entertained by their dedication — and flash mob — as well as sharing meeting space with Aktion Club members and admiring their enthusiasm. Kiwanians, Aktion Club and Circle K members were each given stuffed animal mascots to make photos with and post on Facebook. In the Kiwanis exhibit hall, Circle K shared service projects ranging from crayon recycling and mud volleyball to wildfire relief and 24 straight hours of service.

- Electing new leaders, including Tom DeJulio of New York as president, Gunter Gasser of Austria as president-elect and John Button of Ontario as vice president. Trustees elected to three-year terms on the KI board are Dennis Oliver of Gulfport, Miss.; James Rochford of Peoria, Illinois; and Elizabeth M. Tezza of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Kevin Dean of Morgantown, W.Va., was elected to finish the term of the late Oscar Knight III. Also new to the board will be Colin Reichle of Alberta, who was elected at the Western Canada District Convention, and Iskar Guojonsson of Iceland, who was elected during the KI European Federation Convention.

- Watching the numbers following an electronic vote in which a proposed increase in membership dues did not pass but was referred to a committee. The House of Delegates defeated proposals to add a new Kiwanis Object and to establish a new standing committee of past Kiwanis International trustees. Approved were amendments to clarify discipline of Kiwanis International officers; provide that clubs will investigate an allegation that a member has committed “conduct unbecoming” and appropriately discipline that member if the allegation is found to be true; extend the freeze on tiered dues rates; establish the minimum number of members to charter a new club at 15; and several amendments that will allow implementation of a new Standard Form for Club Bylaws. See more at www.KiwanisOne.org/amendments.

These three Alabamians were officially declared “Distinguished Members” in their Kiwanis work and service. A program was passed out with the names of Distinguished Kiwanians from each district for 2010-11, including, from left, Past Governor Colean Black, Lt. Governor Ervin Dailey and his wife, Cecilia Ann Dailey.

Olivia Humphries split her time between attending sessions and helping in the Kiwanis International Foundation booth.

Report election of club officers
Send your information on officers elected for 2012-13 to Pat Manasco, Alabama District of Kiwanis, 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham, AL 35209. Include addresses, phones and e-mails for presidents and secretaries.

Also fill out and submit to Kiwanis International the election form that can be found on the KI website.

Remember your annual gift of $5 per club member to the Kiwanis International Foundation
Kiwanis International board member Pam Fleming of Sheffield checks out merchandise in the Kiwanis Store, left, and talks about women in Kiwanis during a Saturday program. At far right, she is next to last on the right onstage.

**KI throws a party in pink**

**Convention celebrates 25 years of women in Kiwanis**

**By Patrice Stewart**
Kiwanis Kourier Editor

NEW ORLEANS — This celebration was 25 years in the making.

During a Kiwanis International convention in Washington, D.C., in July 1987, the all-male delegation voted to admit women to membership.

The 25th anniversary was marked at the New Orleans convention with pink lemonade, pink-decorated cake, pink foil-covered chocolates and pink-themed anniversary merchandise at the Kiwanis Store.

The party began during the Wednesday opening reception in the exhibit hall and continued throughout the convention, with many early women members featured on videos at each session. Guests of honor were more than 40 women who were among the first to become official members after the House of Delegates approved the measure in 1987 (read more history on the KI website).

Current KI board trustee Jane Erickson, who served as chairwoman of the Task Force for the 25th year of Women in Kiwanis observance, announced the Legion of Honor to one of the early members. Above, KI board member Jane Erickson (right) talks with an attendee.

At left, Kiwanis International president Alan Penn and wife Jeri (left) present a Legion of Honor to one of the early members. Above, KI board member Jane Erickson (right) talks with an attendee.

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Current KI board trustee Jane Erickson, who served as chairwoman of the Task Force for the 25th year of Women in Kiwanis observance, announced the Legion of Honor honorees during the opening reception. KI president Alan Penn and his wife, Jeri, presented each with a certificate and lapel pin. The Legion of Honor award recognizes members with 25 or more years of Kiwanis service.

“Congratulations to all the Kiwanis women who have served children and communities over the last 25 years. You have guided, mentored, loved, shared, and role-modeled for all of us. You have shown us the true spirit of ‘I care!’ with your integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, excellence and passion,” Erickson said.

On Saturday morning of the New Orleans convention, KI trustee Pam Fleming, a past Alabama District governor from Sheffield, presented a program on 25 years of women in Kiwanis. She noted that Lisa McCoy was the first woman to serve on the KI board in 2001-2004. The first female governor was elected in the Philippines for the 1993-94 term.

Fleming was recognized as a departing board member who will complete her three-year term Sept. 30. Among the women in the Philippines for the 1993-94 term.

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(See WOMEN, Page 14)
Rodgers
(From Page 1)
currently its communications officer, working to increase the impact of Kiwanis service by supporting clubs with technology-related issues and giving programs at conventions.

A primary accomplishment, Rodgers said, has been “developing a first-class website that has been recognized internationally as an example for other districts. I have also worked to increase our impact through developing a monthly District email distribution that shares the Kiwanis Kourier, Eliminate Updates, and other pertinent information that members might find helpful.”

A key part of Rodgers’ strategy was integrating social media tools like Facebook and Twitter “to make our District’s reach become global. We have followers from throughout the world.”

However, he said, “It is the connections that I have made through working on service projects with fellow Kiwanians that mean the most to me. Whether it was building a first-class accessible playground in Helena, or joining division clubs to sort food for the United Way of Central Alabama Food Bank, or seeing the smiling faces of children at the West Center Street Head Start on RIF Distribution and reading days, or the smiles on the families at Children’s Hospital as we give them brief respite from being with their child as they receive compassionate care, these are the memories that I cherish most.”

Women
(From Page 13)
new trustees elected to join the KI board Oct. 1. I was one woman, Elizabeth Tezza of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Fleming shared her favorite quote from another distinguished woman from her home area of Alabama, Helen Keller: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

At the closing convention session that afternoon, Fleming and other women board members and leaders were onstage at the closing session as an anniversary video aired and early members were recognized. Afterward, they asked the men who voted for the measure at the Washington convention 25 years ago to stand, too.

“I am proud to be part of the 26 percent of this organization that is female,” said Erickson. “We have come so far … and for all of us it is a great time to be a Kiwanian.”

The 25th anniversary is a year-long celebration, and each district and club can plan similar recognitions this year. Alabama held a celebration banquet at its Mid-winter Conference in February.

The KI president said that only about 11 percent of members are women in civic organizations such as Rotary and Lions clubs.

Penn also said that during the New Orleans convention, he met the woman who started the Kiwanis ball rolling with a lawsuit. “I told her I was proud of her,” said Penn.

There are still plenty more potential members out there, however. A list of percentages of women in Kiwanis by district was posted at the anniversary booth in the exhibit hall, showing that Alabama, with 20.5 percent women members, is almost at the bottom of the United States districts.

The Carolinas were behind Alabama at 20.3. Leading the U.S. districts with the most women are Southwest at 35.4 percent and West Virginia at 37.7 percent. Numbers vary widely in other countries, depending on cultural customs.

See female membership statistics, stories of early women members, 25th anniversary video and merchandise and more at www.kiwanisone.org/women.

Professional, Rodgers serves as the dean of counseling and residential life at Indian Springs School. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and Counseling Supervisor in the State of Alabama. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of South Alabama and a master’s in counseling from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and also attended Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rodgers, a member of the 2008-2009 class of Project Corporate Leadership, has also volunteered with United Way of Central Alabama, Children’s Hospital, Chi Sigma Iota and the Alabama Mental Health Counselors Association.

He and his wife, Holly, have three children, Jack, 7, Maggie, 3, and Laura, 2.

Rodgers has enjoyed bringing his son along for Kiwanis service opportunities. “He knows about the Eliminate Project and wants to contribute to save lives, too. He knows what Kiwanis is about and that it changes lives. Little does he know that it is ours that have been changed for being a part of this great organization,” he said.

“It is for these reasons that I feel called to take my service to the next level and submit myself as a candidate for the office of vice governor.

“Kiwanis has made me a better member of my community, a better spouse and a better parent,” said Rodgers. “Whenever I get involved in an organization, I take membership very seriously. I have served in numerous capacities over the years and grown to call so many Kiwanians from around the state friends.”

Kiwanis dates to note …

Alabama District Convention July 27-29, 2012

Tri-K Day for RIF in Opelika Aug. 25, 2012

Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 23-24, 2013

International Convention
New Orleans, June 27-30, 2012

Photos by Patrice Stewart

E-mail news and photos to the Kiwanis Kourier, kiwaniskourier@gmail.com
Deadline is Sept. 30, 2012, for the fall online edition of the Kiwanis Kourier
Citronelle club will celebrate its 65th anniversary on July 15

The Citronelle Kiwanis Club invites other Kiwanians and the public to join in its 65th anniversary celebration from 2 to 4 p.m. July 15 at the Citronelle Depot Museum.

The club was chartered on July 17, 1947, said president Waynetta Black.

“William Ted Newberry is the only living charter member and is still attending Kiwanis meetings, leading the pledge at each meeting,” she said.

“He will be receiving his 65-year certificate during the celebration.”

Refreshments will be served, and club scrapbooks will be available for people to look through and see the many projects the club has been involved in through the years.

The club’s first major project was the construction of a swimming pool at Memorial Park, Black said. Members also were instrumental in the formation of the Citronelle Rescue Unit in the 1960s.

“The Citronelle Kiwanis Club is a huge part of the Citronelle community, holding fundraisers to support our local children and surrounding areas with reading, books, school uniforms and scholarships, as well as supporting the Boy Scouts, a softball team, Key Club, Fire Department, area schools and many more,” said Black.
Districts’ dinner
Alabama, Texas-Oklahoma, New England

Photos by Patrice Stewart and Steve Stewart

Remember your annual gift of $5 per club member to the Kiwanis International Foundation
said Andrea Screws, executive director of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery.

Kiwanis Governor Tammy Driskill’s theme for 2011-12, “More Hands = More Service,” will be the theme for the convention, which will begin with board meetings on Friday and end with a memorial prayer breakfast and another board meeting Sunday.

On Saturday, workshops to help members and clubs deal with a variety of topics are scheduled, along with general and business sessions and the interclub luncheon. Training for those taking leadership roles such as club president and secretary and division lieutenant governor is also planned. A tentative schedule is on Page 22.

While the earlybird registration deadline was June 26 for $85, Kiwanians may still register through July 20 online from the convention link on the District website with a credit card for $115, plus a processing fee. The fee for spouses and guests is $45 ($15 for those 12 and under). All those fees include the Friday barbecue and Saturday interclub luncheon.

Registration for the Saturday night governor’s banquet is an additional $40.

Those who wait to register at the convention and pay with cash or check will be charged an additional processing fee of $30. For more information, email ascrews@montgomerykiwanis.org or call 334-260-7996.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel or by calling 1-800-Embassy or online at www.embassysuites.com. Kiwanis rates of $124 double (group code KCM) were due by June 26.
Delegates at work at International Convention

Mark your calendars for June 27-30, 2013 and the Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Have you donated to the Eliminate Project yet? Read about it at www.TheEliminateProject.org
Bikers make Ride to Read a success, defying 100-degree heat of late June

By Cathy Gafford
Executive director, Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental

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 — to help Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental/Kiwanis put books in the homes of 25,000 at-risk young children across Alabama.

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

This was less than half the group of riders expected but no one had expected the high temperatures when the ride was planned. We were thrilled to see the folks who did come and endure the heat.

Riders came on a variety of bikes and we still 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.

Our grand prize winner, Daks Gentry, got a $750 trip to Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, including a two-night stay, dinner for two at the Fire Restaurant, two spa treatments and two cooking lessons.

Tori Sands’ second-place hand won a Harley-Davidson leather jacket. Our worst hand winner, John Gore, went home with some new sunglasses.

Folks attending enjoyed a breakfast bake sale compliments of the Auburn-Opelika Emblem Club #280, the upbeat music of Auburn Audio, a Outback Steakhouse lunch, and bidding on finds at the auction from Story’s, Gatherings, Rick Bell, the Hal Smith Store and more. They got great deals at the Big Swamp, won door prizes from The Village Cookery, Waffle House and Big Swamp, played bike games compliments of the CMA Trinity Riders #295 and drank a lot of cold water from Dean & Barrett. Everyone received a foam cover for a beverage can from Kinnucan’s and a coupon from Zaxby’s.

Prizes, volunteers, sponsors

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

Volunteers came from Kohl’s, Beta Sigma Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Auburn University, CMA Trinity Riders #295, Kiwanis and the Ride to Read committee. Sylvia Watts, widow of Ride to Read founder Truel Watts, came from Millbrook to help us again this year.

We appreciate all of our sponsors, 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 (Wedowee), Opelika-Auburn Emblem Club #280, ALFA Insurance (Valley), BancorpSouth (Opelika), Millbrook-Coosada Kiwanis, Zaxby’s (Tigertown, Valley), Howard E. Rearden D.M.D., P.C., PMF Promed, Suzi and Kervin Kelley (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 for RIF. We appreciate the donations from Big Swamp that add so much to our ride, and we look forward to the 2013 Ride to Read.

Dropped from federal budget

This year it is more important than ever for Jean Dean RIF to have good support for its fundraisers. Reading Is Fundamental Inc., the oldest children’s literacy organization in the United States, was dropped from the federal budget in 2011. The federal grants which Jean Dean RIF had applied for and received to cover some of the poorest kids across Alabama for many years (children with average annual family incomes of $10,000 or less) are no longer available to even apply for, effective 2012. Jean Dean RIF is trying hard not to have to drop 8,000 of the nearly 25,000 children who had been given three books every year.

Jean Dean RIF was started in 1990-91 by Joe Dean, then governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis, and is named for his wife, Jean Torbert Dean, who died in 1990. Jean Dean RIF is the signature service project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. It is the largest RIF project in the nation serving preschoolers and serves more sites than any other RIF project in the country.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to Jean Dean RIF, PO Box 848, Opelika, AL 36803-0848. Volunteers are always welcomed; call 334-750-9974 or email jdrifvolunteer@gmail.com. The program web site address is www.jeandeanrif.org.
Tentative schedule

94th Alabama District Convention
Kiwanis International
July 27-29, 2012, Montgomery

FRIDAY, JULY 27
Noon-6:30 p.m. Registration
1-2:30 p.m. RIF Advisory Committee meeting
2:45-4 p.m. Foundation Board meeting
6 p.m. Opening ceremony, dinner and entertainment (near hotel)

SATURDAY, JULY 28
7:30 a.m.-noon Registration
7-8:15 a.m. Buffet breakfast, welcome from mayor
7-7:45 a.m. Past governors’ meeting
7-7:45 a.m. Past and current lieutenant governors’ meeting
7-7:45 a.m. RIF meeting
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Kiwanis Family Store
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Exhibits
7:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Silent Auction (checkout 4:45 – 5 p.m.)
8:30-9:30 a.m. General session: House of Delegates business
9:45-10:30 a.m. Workshops
A: Incoming Club Presidents and Incoming Club Secretaries, Ernest Hulsey and Paul England
B: Building and Supporting an Aktion Club, Glenda Selman

C: The Eliminate Project, David Beasley

Second group of workshops
A: Incoming Club Presidents and Incoming Club Treasurers, Joel Williams and Coke Clark
B: Social Media, Brian Rodgers
C: Pancake Day Success, Jerry Ware

Excursion for youth and spouses
Interclub Luncheon
Speaker: Jane Erickson, Kiwanis International Trustee

Third group of workshops
A: Incoming Board Members, Ernest Hulsey
B: Building and Supporting a Circle K Club, CKI Governor Kimbrlei McCain
C: Representative of KI board

Excursions and free time
Honors Reception
Governor’s Banquet

SUNDAY, JULY 29
8-9 a.m. Nondenominational Memorial Prayer Breakfast (buffet breakfast in atrium)

District Board meeting

Riley to lead Key Clubs worldwide

Another Alabama student has been elected president of Key Club International — the 10th during the group’s nearly 70-year history.

Homewood High School senior Rebecca Riley was elected 2012-13 head of the 260,000-member youth service organization sponsored by Kiwanis International. The vote took place July 7 during the Key Club International Convention in Orlando.

The 17-year-old is the daughter of Robert and Leslie Riley of Homewood. She was elected to the KCI board last year and addressed Kiwanians at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville, accompanied by her grandfather, former Alabama Governor Bob Riley.

Silent auction items needed at convention

Bring silent auction donations and buy items to help raise funds for Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental and other projects during the Alabama District Convention in Montgomery July 27-29.

Proceeds are split 50/50 between the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Jean Dean RIF.

Items can be turned in on Friday, and the auction will be held all day on Saturday.

Cathy Gafford, executive director of Jean Dean RIF, says this auction is “a WIN-WIN-WIN event every year” because businesses and individuals get tax deductions for gifts; buyers save on items they want, such as travel packages and autographed footballs; and children benefit. You can regift items and home treasures or give cash.

You can obtain a donation form from jeandeanrif@gmail.com and fill it out in advance.