



Alabama

# Kiwaniis Kourier

Winter 2014

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13 pages

## Mid-winter Conference Feb. 21-22

By **Patrice Stewart**  
Kiwaniis Kourier editor

The Alabama District of Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference, scheduled Feb. 21-22 in Prattville, will cover topics such as the new Global Campaign for Growth, progress in The Eliminate Project, and what clubs need to do about background checks and other youth protection/risk issues.

Alabama Kiwanians will meet at The Legends Marriott hotel and conference center for a weekend of Kiwanis education, leadership training and fellowship.



**Greg Beard**

The featured speaker for several workshops and the Interclub Luncheon will be Greg Beard of Alexandria, La., USA Region 2 Growth Chair for the Global Campaign for Growth. The 2011-12 Distinguished Governor for the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District, he also serves as a co-chair for The Eliminate Project's Lead and Major Gifts Committee.

Three board meetings are scheduled Friday afternoon (RIF at 12:45, District Foundation at 2:15 and District Board at 3:45. A casual dinner is planned for 6:45 p.m., featuring a karaoke benefit for The Eliminate Project. A hospitality room will be open afterward.

On Saturday morning, coffee

**(See PRATTVILLE, Page 10)**



Costumed characters including a loofah and soap were among those running into the waves at the Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores third annual Polar Bear Dip.

## Clubs sponsor polar dip, parades, pancakes, tour

By **Patrice Stewart**  
Kiwaniis Kourier editor

Kiwanians around Alabama participated in parades and projects right through the Christmas season and into the new year.

The Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores offered a way to start 2014 with a chilly but fun noon dip into the Gulf of Mexico at the public beach.

The third annual Polar Bear Dip drew a costumed Spiderman, Batman, polar bear and a loofah with soap, along with other characters running into the surf and back out quickly.

Women in feather boas and crazy-looking 2014 glasses romped in the waves, while some families prepared in advance with matching T-shirts spelling out 2014, worn with Hawaiian-style grass skirts.

Kiwanis Club president David Williams went knee-deep in the Gulf to handle the official noon countdown with a bullhorn.

And the guy wearing a white Elvis-style suit with scarf was Kiwanis past president and lieutenant governor

**(See EVENTS, Page 5)**

Registration is open online for Kiwanis International Convention in Japan July 17-20, 2014

# Ala. District officers for 2013-14

- Governor:** Bill Phillips, Pell City
- Governor-elect:** Brian Rodgers, Indian Springs
- Vice-governor:** Bob Palys, Cullman
- Past governor:** Wayne Sisk, Alexandria
- LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS:**
- Division 1,** Richard Hartz, Huntsville West
- Division 2,** James Stansell, Rogersville
- Division 3,** Pollyanna Higgs, Jasper
- Division 4,** Betty Whisenant, Tuscaloosa
- Division 5,** Owen Bradley, Hoover-Metro
- Division 6,** Luther Jarmon, Vulcan, Birmingham
- Division 7,** Gerald Ware, Gadsden
- Division 8,** James Kendrick, Wedowee
- Division 9,** Alan Taylor, Millbrook-Coosada
- Division 10,** Pat Padgett, Auburn
- Division 11,** Joel Williams, Troy
- Division 12,** Margaret Murphy, Monroeville
- Division 13,** Thomas Lott, Daphne-Spanish Fort
- Division 14,** Keith Graham, Azalea City, Mobile

# District's membership numbers are going up

Most people enjoy the New Year holiday. It's a chance to forget the disappointments and failures of the past year and a chance to look forward to good things and opportunities. Also, everyone enjoys hearing good news.

I would like to share some good news with you. Since the start of our Kiwanis new year on Oct. 1, 2013, based on the latest membership report from Kiwanis International, we have had a reported net increase of 27 members in our district membership through the end of December.

Membership growth is one of my goals for this year, and as I have been emphasizing it, I hope each club has been working toward this goal. The membership increase mentioned above has been all across our district, with most divisions reporting an increase in membership. I know some clubs have membership drives planned for this spring — how about yours?

In addition to the increase in membership in our existing clubs, we have a new Kiwanis club to add to our District family. A new club has been chartered in the Birmingham area as the Kiwanis Club of Magic City Young



## From the Governor

By Bill Phillips Jr.

Professionals.

Our New Club Building Chairperson Colean Black, with help from Kyle Pierce, is to be commended for hard work in getting this club started. In addition, several more sites have been identified for possible new clubs this year, and organizational work on these sites will start soon with Colean, Kyle, the lieutenant governor in each area, and volunteers.

I will continue to push for additional sites for clubs to be identified this year, as well as helping prepare for next year, when our new regionally

appointed Growth Team will be in place and operational.

My new club goal for this year is five new clubs. This is certainly a doable goal, but any goal requires the help and efforts of our members.

We have strong youth service groups, with good leadership, in the Alabama District. They are always seeking to grow, just as Kiwanis is.

So far this year, I am aware of one new Key Club and one new Builders Club in the Alabama District. The Key Club, which is at Woodland High School, is sponsored by the Wedowee Kiwanis Club. The new Builders Club is at Victory Christian School and is sponsored by the Moody Kiwanis Club. There may be additional clubs that have not yet been reported. I know of additional sites that have expressed an interest in having clubs.

It has been shown many times that an increase in membership can be contiguous for a club, as well as a division. I believe we are off to a good start in the Alabama District this year.

Let's build on success and accelerate membership growth as we head into our centennial year of 2014-2015. Let's end our year with more members and clubs than we started our year with.

## Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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**Put the Alabama District Kiwanis Convention on your calendars: Aug. 1-3, 2014, in Mobile**

# Alabama District Kiwanis history



This is the third 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.

## Those early years

Bob McCurley

*Kiwanis was formed during World War I on Jan. 21, 1919, in Detroit, Mich., as a men's business club. Before long, members found the real purpose of Kiwanis was as a civic club. This civic club purpose quickly evolved, and a new beginning for Kiwanis International materialized in Birmingham, Ala., with the purchase of the Kiwanis name from Allen Brown. Kiwanis became the organization we know today on May 21, 1919, at the Tutwiler Hotel in Birmingham. (See Alabama Kiwanis Kourier, Summer 2013).*

The year 1919 was a good time in America. World War I had ended the year before, and there was enthusiasm and a feeling for helping others begin new lives in new places. Returning soldiers moved to the towns and cities eager to meet new friends and new opportunities.

In Alabama, new clubs were formed immediately. During 1919, five new clubs joined Birmingham to become the nucleus of what would later be the Alabama District. (See Fall 2013 Alabama Kiwanis Kourier.)

During 1920 five more clubs were formed; 1921, eight clubs were organized; five more in 1922; six clubs in 1923 and two in 1924. In 1925, the Alabama-Florida district was divided, making Alabama a separate district with 32 clubs.



During the last half of the 1920s, bad economic times hit Alabama and America. Kiwanis growth slowed, with only five more clubs formed during the last half of the 1920s. The good news is that over 90 percent of these clubs still survive today. To be a Kiwanian in the 1920s meant one was a community leader of great renown. The charter members were the "who's who" of the city.

The 1930s were not much better. Only four clubs were formed, and one of them did not survive the decade.

With World War II raging, Kiwanis did not fare much better in the early 1940s. Effort was focused on the war, both in Europe and the Pacific. During the period 1940 to 1945, only two clubs were formed and only one of them survived.

World War II ended in August 1945, and our troops returned with a renewed new feeling for helping

their fellow man. These veterans make up what many now call our greatest generation. Kiwanis took off, with three new clubs formed in 1946, 11 more in 1947, three in 1948 and three more in 1949.

Twenty new Kiwanis clubs in only four years is a fantastic commitment of involvement. In the previous 20 years Alabama had organized 11 clubs, and only six had survived these hard times. Kiwanis was entering its greatest years of growth.

**Can you help  
with photos  
or information?**

*There are many more "Kiwanis stories waiting to be told." If you have anecdotes or stories you want to include in the Alabama District history, please send them. Anyone who may have information or Kiwanis pictures of these early days, please send them to Bob McCurley, [rlmccurley@gmail.com](mailto:rlmccurley@gmail.com), or to District Secretary Pat Manasco, [patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net](mailto:patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net).*

*The future editions of the Alabama Kiwanis Kourier during 2014 will include excerpts from other decades, along with articles about our sponsored youth organizations and district leadership.*





Building leadership skills was the focus when more than 60 Circle K members gathered at Camp Lee at Anniston.

# Circle K District Convention will take attendees around the world

**By Zach Nolen**

Circle K Governor, Alabama District

More than 60 Circle K members from across the state gathered at Camp Lee at Anniston on the weekend of Nov. 1 for the annual Alabama Leadership Academy.

The weekend was full of leadership building exercises that took members far outside of their comfort zones to stretch their leadership skills to make them better leaders in their communities. Attendees participated in several low ropes activities, a climbing wall, and a zip line.



**Zach Nolen**

With much planning and care, the event went off without a hitch and ended with members temporarily parting from their newfound friends and planning events with their respective clubs to bring them together to serve their communities.

Coming off the success of their Alabama Leadership Academy, the Alabama District Board has been hard at work planning an amazing convention for Feb. 28-March 2 in Opelika.

The theme for the convention will be "All Around the World: Making a World of Differences." It will take attendees across the globe to show the impact that Circle K members are making in various countries.

Each of the planned workshops will be focused on a spe-



Members of the UAB Circle K Club are shown with Camp Lee director Marcus Strickland.

cific country and will use the culture to teach valuable lessons about service, leadership and fellowship.

Our Alabama District Circle K Board is currently in the

**(See CIRCLE K, Page 5)**



## Circle K (From Page 4)

final planning stages for the convention, to be held at the Marriott Grand National in Opelika, and the excitement is building for what is sure to be one of the best conventions to date.

Along with the election of the new District Board, there will be activities such as talent and oratorical contests and also an awards ball to recognize clubs and individual members who have gone above and beyond over the past year.

This is sure to be a convention that should not be missed. We would like to invite any Kiwanians who would like to attend. It is always a great opportunity for Circle K members to interact with Kiwanians and is another high point of the convention.

For more information, email me at zach.nolen@alabama.circlek.org.



In front of the climbing wall are Circle K District Governor Zach Nolen, Plains Lt. Gov. Jessica Bloom and District Secretary Meggie Hall.

## Events (From Page 1)

Steve Jones, now a Gulf Shores city councilman. His wife, Renee, wearing a red evening gown and patriotic hat, joined him for a dip.

They also had a collection station to bring in money for Kiwanis causes. The Gulf Shores Police Department's Special Olympic Torch Run also shared in the proceeds.

The Gulf Shores club offered commemorative T-shirts for purchase, and lunch was served at The Hangout on the beach.

A giant Slip 'n' Slide was set up on the beach, too. Gulf Shores Kiwanians wanted to make their event more family-friendly than a similar activity held at the Flora-Bama.

### Parades with themes

Early in the holiday season, many clubs were sponsors of the Christmas parades in their cities.

The Rogersville Kiwanis Club sponsored a Dec. 7 Christmas parade with the theme "Holidays for Heroes," with all veterans invited to participate or attend. The club asked those attending to bring toys. The fun continued after the parade with an "Old-Fashioned Christmas in Rogersville"

program featuring festive music, hot apple cider, homemade baked goods and lighting of the Yule Log.

In Foley, the annual downtown Christmas parade was sponsored Dec. 7 by the Foley Kiwanis Club. Afterward, spectators could head to Heritage Park for "Let It Snow," the city's annual gift of a chance for residents to play in man-made snow, along with a village of holiday crafts, music and food vendors.

The Kiwanis Club of Gadsden scheduled its parade for Dec. 9 with a theme of "Christmas Around the World." Kiwanis Governor Bill Phillips and wife, Jean, were asked to be special guests and ride in the parade.

The annual Hartselle Kiwanis Club Christmas Parade through the quaint downtown with many antique and gift shops was planned for Dec. 12. A tropical theme with warm undertones was chosen: "Hawaiian Christmas."

In Bay Minette, the Kiwanis Club offered a peek into six local homes decorated for Christmas as part of its annual "Holiday Tour of Homes." Ticket proceeds went to the club's annual Scholarship Fund. The Bay Minette club also sponsored a "Pancakes with Santa" event, with tickets sold for \$5 each.

### Spirits and music

The Young Professionals Kiwanis Club of Magic City had a different take on holiday spirits and festivities. They sponsored "Kiwanis Uncorked," a competitive wine tasting, at Moonlight on the Mountain in Birmingham.

In Monroeville, Kiwanians invited guests to an Awards Night dinner, where Citizen of the Year and Kiwanian of the Year honors were announced.

Florence and Decatur Kiwanis clubs were among those entertained with Christmas music programs by youth groups from the area. The Florence High School Chorus sang Christmas songs for Florence Kiwanians, while the Kiwanis Club of Decatur was entertained by the Decatur Youth Symphony.

### Ringling bells

The Salvation Army got some bell-ringing help from many Kiwanians. The Kiwanis Clubs of Anniston and Decatur were among those signing up to ring bells for a day.

These are just a few of the holiday activities the Kourier noted around Alabama. Next time, send your events and photos to [kiwaniskourier@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniskourier@gmail.com).

# April event can change lives of emerging young leaders

By **Jamie Brabston**

District Key Leader Administrator

Registration for Key Leader 2014 is under way!

In the words of Key Leader graduate Emme Martinez (who also serves as our liaison to the Key Club): "Key Leader is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore new ideas, accomplish exciting challenges, build enduring friendships, and have fun while developing the skills to be a true servant leader!"

We are so excited that Emme is on our team and will be joining us at Key Leader again this year!

Emerging leaders in your area must attend this exciting, fun and educational weekend April 11-13, 2014, in beautiful Jackson's Gap, Ala. Past participants from the Alabama District have described their Key Leader experience as "awesome" and "life-changing!"



**Jamie Brabston**

Participants who attend the Key Leader weekend retreat will participate in large and small group workshops, discussions and team-building activities, while developing leadership skills that will help them to change their schools, communities and world for the better. They will make amazing new friends and have experiences they will never forget while exploring leadership in a whole new way.

Participants who attend the Key Leader weekend retreat will participate in large and small group workshops, discussions and team-building activities, while developing leadership skills that will help them to change their schools, communities and world for the better. They will make amazing new friends and have experiences they will never forget while exploring leadership in a whole new way.

Please do not miss this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the youth in your community!

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

We look forward to welcoming back many Key Club members who have expressed interest in returning, including some who will serve as stu-



**Students participate in a team-building exercise during the 2013 Key Leader retreat in Jackson's Gap.**

dent facilitators and lead other Key Leader participants in small groups.

Key Leader's mission is to inspire young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership.

Emerging leaders looking for that extra nudge are ideal candidates for the Key Leader experience. 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!

This is also a wonderful opportunity to foster interest in your community if you are trying to start a Key Club at your local high school or increase membership in an existing club.

Online registration is open now; space is limited. See [www.key-leader.org](http://www.key-leader.org). (Some scholarships and help with transportation may be available on a first come, first served basis.)

We are thankful to have a new site coordinator: Sabrina Young, who has participated as a chaperone in several past Key Leader events. Kevin Yates

will return as photographer.

We need several more adult volunteers from the Alabama District to assist with coordinating logistics and supervising the students. If you are interested in volunteering as a chaperone, please let us know. This is a fun, rewarding experience for the adults, as well as the students.

If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.key-leader.org](http://www.key-leader.org) or contact me, Jamie Brabston, at [jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com) or 256-679-6341.

## Key Leader 2014

**Date:** April 11-13, 2014

**Location:** Camp ASCCA in Jackson's Gap

**Fees:** Only \$200 per student (\$175 for Key Club members)

**Includes:** Two nights' lodging, all meals and snacks, program materials, a cool T-shirt and lots of fun!



# Club Spotlight: **Monroeville**

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

Kiwanis and other civic clubs have definitely felt an impact from the economic downturn in recent years.

But in Monroeville, Kiwanis has remained a strong presence, despite Monroe County's unemployment rate -- the fifth highest in the state -- and loss of major forestry, textile and other industries.

Lt. Gov. Margaret Murphy, a member of the Monroeville club since 1995, said the club's membership once was 125, but the roster now hovers around 90.

That's still a number dozens of other clubs would like to claim. Many cities with much larger populations can only muster up 16 to 25 dues-paying members.

What makes the difference? How does your club stack up to the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville?

Club president Ricky Powell thinks "the work the community sees us do" is the main reason the club stays strong. "Good news travels fast," he said.

He listed the club's annual pancake supper, radio day, twilight golf tournament, Christmas wreath sale and cake auction as major fundraisers. That gets members involved and helps fund many local projects.

On the same day new officers were installed last fall, checks totaling about \$7,000 were presented to representatives of the Chamber of



**Monroeville officers for 2013-14 and some board members are, front, from left: president-elect David Stewart, treasurer Toni McKelvey, Lt. Gov. Margaret Murphy and president Ricky Powell; back: secretary Phil Allen, immediate past president Bob Crawford and board members Bill Lamar, Keith Baggett, Jonathan Dick, Allen Dunning, Rodie Ruffin (in back) and Tommy Wright.**

Commerce, Boy Scouts, Pilots for Christ, Dixie Youth League, Monroeville Area YMCA, United Way, Monroeville Police Department and more.

Powell, who is executive director of the Monroeville YMCA, joined the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville in 2006 and was installed as 2013-14 president

Oct. 1.

The club doesn't rest on its past record. Officers and members are always on the lookout for new members.

"We are planning a membership drive," said Powell. "We are also hav-

**(See MONROEVILLE, Page 8)**



**Monroeville club's 2013-14 president Ricky Powell, left, and president-elect David Stewart talk over plans for the year.**



**Monroeville club secretary Phil Allen presented flowers to second-term Lt. Gov. Margaret Murphy, a member of the Monroeville club since 1995, after she installed new officers.**

## Monroeville (From Page 7)

ing a Past Presidents' Day where we will invite all past presidents, active and inactive."

"Our club is unique in that we have a group of leaders that care about our community and believe firmly in what Kiwanis stands for," said Powell.

"Our club is a close group of friends that work together toward a common goal. I'm blessed to be a part of such a great group of people, and nothing is more rewarding than serving as a Kiwanian."

President-elect David Stewart has been a member of the Monroeville club for 31 years. The president and general manager of WMFC Radio has served about eight years as club treasurer and has been on and off the board of directors through the years.

### Chartered in 1947

The club was formed in 1947, he said. His father, the late Bill Stewart, just missed being a charter member and joined the second week after the club was formed. He later served as club president and was named its Man of the Year in 1968 and Citizen of the Year in 1990.

"They had a very active club then, too," said Stewart. "The 'Greatest Generation' was running it then."

He said the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville has always been the strongest civic club in the town that also has Rotary, Civitan, Business & Professional Women, and other clubs.

"Obviously, our membership is down, but I think we've done real well to hold it together like we have," said Stewart. "We still have a substantial number of members."

### Longtime club secretary

When you find a strong, active Kiwanis club, you will most often find a dedicated, knowledgeable club secretary who has done that job for more than a couple of years. In Monroeville Kiwanis, that person is Phil Allen, who has been club secretary for more than a decade. He took that role after serving as president and lieutenant governor and has also been active at the district level and on its Foundation Board.

Allen and Paul England, another past lieutenant governor from the Monroeville club, often help train



**Bob Crawford got a past president's plaque from the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville.**

incoming club officers at state meetings.

Treasurer Toni McKelvey has handled the club's financial duties for many years, too.

Division 12 Lt. Gov. Margaret Murphy is in her 19th year as a member of the Monroeville club, which she said is the oldest and largest service club in Monroeville and Monroe County. She has been its membership chairman, program chairman (twice), vice president and president, as well as division lieutenant governor for two straight years. In fact, the Monroeville club is planning to provide a lieutenant governor for the division four years in a row.

"The economy has hit Monroe County rather hard with the loss of some of its biggest industries, leaving the county with the fifth largest unemployment rate in the state," she said. Many people moved away to find or keep jobs.

While membership has dropped, she said, "This has not affected the dedication of the club's members to service to the area. It is this dedication

that has kept the club strong.

"If you undertake a project for the club, you know that you will have support from the members," said Murphy, a retired English instructor for Alabama Southern Community College.

See how your club stacks up to Monroeville in sponsorship of Kiwanis youth service clubs, too.

"Although Monroeville has a population of only about 7,000 and Monroeville is the largest town in the county, the Monroeville Kiwanis Club sponsors four Key Clubs and a Circle K Club," Murphy said. Representatives from the youth clubs regularly attend Kiwanis meetings.

### Always a project

The club always has something going on, with members designated to head each project or event, from the Kiwanis One Day Project to the Jessie L. Blankenship Scholarship. Members enjoy everything from Reading Is Fundamental to the fall weekly football contest.

The club normally meets at noon on Tuesdays with a buffet luncheon at the Vanity Fair Golf & Tennis Club. Monroeville has also hosted the district governor's visit to the division for several years.

In early December, spouses and guests are invited to the club's annual Awards Night, where Citizen of the

Year and Kiwanian of the Year honors are presented.

The club even has its own Kiwanis Men's Chorus to perform at various events. And Monroeville is big on interclubs and always sends a big group to district conventions.

*"Our club is unique in that we have a group of leaders that care about our community and believe firmly in what Kiwanis stands for. Our club is a close group of friends that work together toward a common goal."*

—Ricky Powell,  
Monroeville club president

Money is collected for the Kiwanis International Eliminate Project at each club meeting. "We saved 52 lives last week with the money collected to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide," said division chair Laura Allen.

Monroeville is the home club of J.W. Sales, who served as district governor in 1992-93, and many past lieutenant governors besides England and Allen. Kourier editor Patrice Stewart originally joined Kiwanis there in 1991.



# 5-year initiative seeks membership growth

By Jamie Brabston

Do you love your club?

I believe all Kiwanians in our District do. We love serving our communities and our children; we love the fellowship and camaraderie; we love leading, connecting with our communities and raising funds for local and global projects, such as elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Only strong and healthy clubs can support our mission as Kiwanians. More Kiwanians means more strength to fulfill all of these goals.

The global campaign for GROWTH is a member-led, five-year initiative to increase Kiwanis membership at the grassroots level.

Kiwanis will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2015, and through this campaign, our clubs have the opportunity and the support to be stronger than ever to welcome a new century of impact in our communities. It is key to this mission that we have a strong leadership structure in place that is focused on increasing the num-

ber of Kiwanis clubs and members in our district. We want YOU to be involved! We are currently looking for dedicated Kiwanians to serve as Certified New Club Builders and Certified Club Counselors in their divisions (training will be provided).

For this 2013-14 year, Pat Padgett is the Membership Chairman, and Colean Black is the New Club Builder.

Kiwanis International and the districts are making preparations now to aid the transition into the new, larger campaign for the 2014-15 year.

Last August, Jamie Brabston was appointed the Alabama District Chair for the Global Campaign for Growth by Greg Beard, Regional Growth Chair for five Southern states (and the featured speaker at Alabama's Mid-winter Conference in Prattville).

She has already attended an orientation meeting in Indianapolis. She hopes to identify the new certified club builders and counselors as soon as possible so they can attend a training session in Atlanta April 25-26.

## WANTED



■ **Certified New Club Builders (one per division)** to lead the effort to take Kiwanis to new communities in their division. This person will work with the Certified Club Counselors and Lieutenant Governor in their division to build clubs in communities that do not yet benefit from Kiwanis.

■ **Certified Club Counselors (two per division)** will work with the New Club Builder and Lieutenant Governor in their division to provide mentoring and membership growth guidance to the clubs in their division. Their primary goal will be to ensure that new clubs become independent and strong. They will also mentor any division clubs that are "at risk" and have low membership.

*If you have an interest in serving in one of these capacities, please contact Jamie Brabston at [jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com) or (256) 679-6341.*

## Training in Indianapolis



Several Alabama Kiwanians braved an estimated 20 inches of snow and ice in Indianapolis in early January to attend annual training sessions scheduled by Kiwanis International. District secretary Pat Manasco attended training with others in her position, while Service Leadership Program administrators attended other sessions. David Womack was there for Circle K administrators' meetings, Glenda Selman for Aktion Club, Phillip Selman for K-Kids and Kevin Yates for Builders Club. George Price and Paul Sexton could not attend Key Club training due to a scheduling conflict with an Alabama Key Club gathering.

## Prattville (From Page 1)

gatherings are scheduled from 7:15 to 8:15 for Reading Is Fundamental, Eliminate, past governors and past lieutenant governors.

A buffet breakfast, included in the conference registration fee, will be served just before the opening general session begins. The breakfast and meeting are scheduled from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

### Workshop sessions

Beard will lead two workshop sessions on a new Kiwanis global growth initiative, with Jamie Brabston of Birmingham explaining what is needed from Alabama Kiwanians (see story, Page 9).

Another workshop topic club members will want to learn about is risk management for their clubs and what must be done to protect the youth Kiwanians serve, such as background checks and precautions to take when driving youth to Kiwanis meetings.

During the two sessions of morning workshops, Kiwanians also can choose from topics including Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, Aktion Club, Key Leader, Reading Is Fundamental and the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

Also, club leadership training for incoming club presidents and secretaries will be held from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. and completed in the afternoon from 2:15 to 4.

The Interclub Luncheon starting at 11:45 a.m. will include Hixsons, Zellers and other award presentations and the roll call of clubs. Beard, the featured speaker, will talk about The Eliminate Project, a Kiwanis worldwide initiative to eradicate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Following the luncheon, several more break-out sessions are planned at 2 p.m. Topics will include the Kiwanis International Foundation, The Eliminate Project, and an educa-

## More about the featured speaker...

Greg Beard of Alexandria, La., who is heading a new Kiwanis growth campaign in several Southern states, will be the featured speaker at the Alabama District's Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 21-22.

Beard, a Kiwanian since joining the Kiwanis Club of Alexandria, La., in 1995, earned "Distinguished" honors as club president and as 2011-12 governor of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District.

He is a life member, a Hixson Ambassador and a Walter E. Zeller Charter Fellow.

As the USA-Region 2 Growth Chair for the Global Campaign for Growth, he will lead two morning workshops about this new effort.

Beard and his wife, Lisa, are major gift donors to The Eliminate Project. He is serving as a co-chair for The Eliminate Project's Lead and Major Gifts Committee. He recently went with a Kiwanis group to

Madagascar to see The Eliminate Project at work and will talk about that during the Interclub Luncheon.

Beard is a former member of Builders Club, Key Club and Circle K. A graduate of Alexandria Senior High School, he received a Bachelor of General Studies degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

He earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern Law Center in Baton Rouge and is a partner with his brother in Beard & Beard, LLC-Attorneys. Beard is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association and also serves as a deputy sheriff/diver for the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Department.

Ordained a deacon in 1999 at Calvary Baptist Church, he has served as chairman of the deacons and currently serves on several church committees.

He and his wife have a 17-year-old son, Tyler.

tional Kiwanis Jeopardy game with prizes.

"Please encourage all of your club members to come to our Mid-winter Conference, where we are going to have a lot of fun, fellowship and education," said District Secretary Pat Manasco.

### How to register

Registration with a credit card payment can be accomplished online through a link from the district website, [alabama.kiwanis.org](http://alabama.kiwanis.org) (with service fee added). You may prefer to print out a registration form (one per Kiwanian attending) and mail it to the district office (85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham, AL 35209) with a check. A registration form is included in this issue of the Kiwanis Kourier.

The registration fee is \$75 per member, including the opening session breakfast and the interclub luncheon. Guest tickets for the luncheon are \$30 each. Each ticket for the casual Friday evening dinner and karaoke night will be \$30.

The deadline for Mid-winter Conference registration at \$75 is Feb. 8; a late registration fee of an additional \$15 per person must be paid after Feb. 8. For information, call or email Manasco at 205-945-1334 or [patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net](mailto:patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net).

Room reservations should be made directly with the Legends Marriott hotel at 800-468-3571. A conference rate of \$119 is available until Feb. 1 to those mentioning Kiwanis. The hotel is located at 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066.

### Update your records online

Want to stay up to date with the latest information from Kiwanis? Make sure Kiwanis International has your current email and other information.

Members may now update their own information by logging in to: [reporting.kiwanisone.org](http://reporting.kiwanisone.org).

First-time users must register using the link. Once logged in, you can click the "Update

Profile" link in the upper righthand corner.

Make sure that all of your information is correct; add a short bio if you would like, or even a profile picture.

Most importantly, please make sure that they have your current email address. This will help us all stay in touch.

—Brian Rodgers, Governor-elect



# Alabama District Kiwanis

# 2014 Mid-winter Conference

**The Legends-Montgomery Marriott Hotel, Prattville, Ala.**

**Feb. 21-22, 2014**

Please copy and use one registration per kiwanian

Please PRINT!!

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Attendee: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Are you staying at the Marriott? **Circle** Friday Y N Saturday Y N

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Kiwanis Club \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Partner/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of Youth Attending \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE	#	@ \$75.00	\$
<u>Includes Opening Session Breakfast and Inter-club Luncheon</u>			
GUEST TICKET – INTER-CLUB LUNCHEON (not a Kiwanis member)	#	@ \$ 30.00	\$
<u>Join Fellow Kiwanians for a Fun filled night to celebrate the success of</u>			
<u>The Great Alabama District</u>			
Friday Night Fun Filled KARAOKE for ELIMINATE	#	@ \$ 30.00	\$
<u>BANQUET</u>			
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED_			\$

Late registration fee of additional 15.00 per person after February 8, 2014

Persons attending the Interclub luncheon must check in at desk at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the luncheon or lose their reservations.

**MAKE REGISTRATION CHECK PAYABLE TO: ALABAMA DISTRICT KIWANIS**

**MAIL REGISTRATION TO: Alabama District Kiwanis, 85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206, Birmingham AL 35209.**

Reservations made will be paid since we are charged based on reservation numbers.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS:**

Reserve directly with hotel: The Legends-Montgomery Marriott Prattville 2500 Legends Circle Prattville Alabama 36066  
1-(800) 468-3571

Reservations must be made no later than February 01, 2014 to receive conference rate.

**MENTION KIWANIS CONFERENCE TO RECEIVE CONFERENCE RATE. Rate Code: Kiwanis**

All single or double occupancy rate - \$119.00; Triple rate - \$119.00; Quad rate - \$119.00, plus tax.

Reservations made after February 03, 2014 will be on space available basis at full rate.

1. Make copies and fill out the form (PRINT) for each member that is going to attend, and send to the District Office.
2. Send a Check to the District Office for registration and meals requested. No one will be admitted to events who has not prepaid.

For more information, call Pat Manasco at the District Office. (205) 945-1334  
patriciamanasco@bellsouth.net, dist\_sec@alkiwanis.org

# April 1 is deadline for best price on Tokyo convention registration

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

It's always interesting to learn about another culture, and there will be plenty of opportunities for that at the 99th Kiwanis International Convention in Tokyo-Chiba, Japan, July 17-20.

Along with learning more about how Kiwanis clubs work in other parts of the world, you will get to meet members from all over and share the Kiwanis experience.

The convention will be held at the Makuhari Messe International Convention Complex in the city of Chiba, a suburb of Tokyo.

The Kiwanis International website convention section has plenty of information about Japan and special packages for those planning to attend, along with air, hotel and tour possibilities. Keep an eye on that site for new details added regularly.

Registration can be handled online. If you plan to be a delegate for your club and vote for the future leaders of Kiwanis, as well as on proposed amendments, be sure to print out the online certificate of election of club delegates and alternates in advance so it can be filled out and signed by your club officials.

Registration will be \$185 until April 1, said Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco, and then it goes to \$235 until May 15 and to \$250 for those registering at the Japan convention center July 16 and later. She will have some convention brochures on her exhibit table at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 21-22, and she asks that any-



**Kiwanis**  
CONVENTION

one planning to attend the convention let her know.

"There will be no shuttle buses this year, because all convention hotels are so close to the convention center," said Manasco.

Kiwanis International has obtained special rates for airfare, airport transfers and four nights at a convention hotel, including breakfast, to help members save on travel costs. Tumlare Destination Management, the official convention package provider, also has pre- and post-convention tour packages for Kiwanians wishing to see more of Japan, as well as Cambodia, Vietnam, China and Hawaii.

Four-night Chiba hotel and air packages (from major U.S. gateways) start at \$1,899 for those sharing a room, or \$2,079 for singles (if you fly from three major California airports, those prices drop to \$1,599 and \$1,789). However, airline taxes and security fees are not

included in those package prices and are expected to run about \$585 extra.

For details, watch the website: [www.kiwanis.org/convention/2014](http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2014).

*Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco asks that anyone planning to attend the International Convention notify her. Special rates are available for airfare, airport transfers, hotel rooms and breakfast. Pre- and post-convention tours are also offered.*

## It's OK to slurp your noodles and other tidbits about visiting Japan

These 10 interesting tidbits about Japan will prove useful if you attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Tokyo-Chiba, Japan, July 17-20:

1. Tips are not expected or accepted.
2. You can find toiletries and snacks at familiar 7-Eleven stores, or Family Mart or Lawson. They sell toiletries, soups, candy, beer, rice balls, skewered chicken, cigarettes, umbrellas and more. And you'll also find vending machines everywhere, but to buy cigarettes you must insert an ID to prove age.
3. Many convenience stores are open 24 hours a day.
4. Outside restaurants, plastic facsimiles of dishes serve both as menus for non-Japanese speakers and entice-

ments for Japanese-speaking customers. Also, slurping is fine when eating noodles.

5. Do not cross the street when the sign is red at an intersection in the convention city — even if there are no cars or bikes in sight. And be aware that bikers ride on sidewalks, but they are skilled at avoiding pedestrians.

6. People waiting at a bus stop or for a train will form a line. You may see bus employees saluting arriving and departing buses with a deep bow.

7. If you look lost while holding a map, a small crowd might form around you to try and help. Don't be surprised if people go completely out of their way to help you find the place you were looking for.

8. If store clerks greet you by shouting "Irasshaimase!" they are saying, "Welcome!" And you may hear "kudasai" repeated often; it means "please."

9. You can choose to take a bus or ride the metro or get a taxi. Don't be surprised if you notice white lace slip covers over the seats of taxis.

10. You may see some people wearing white masks over their mouths. In Japan, this is a common way to protect against germs — and to prevent the spread of germs when one is sick. On the streets during rush hour, companies often hand out packages of tissues with their logos and business information.



# 400 participate in Run to Read, earn \$8,400 for Jean Dean RIF

Jean Dean RIF values running right along with reading.

The sixth annual Run to Read, held Nov. 2 in Opelika, netted about \$8,400 for Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, said executive director Cathy Gafford, while about 400 people — runners and walkers and volunteers and children — had fun.

Proclaimed “Run to Read Day” by Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller, the event featured 10-K and 5-K runs plus a 1½-mile walk. It also included the Clifford the Big Red Dog Dash for those 5 and under and the Ope-Lika ¼-mile sprint for children 6 to 9.

Clifford the Big Red Dog was there as usual, and children also enjoyed Sparky the fire dog, a fire truck, and inflatables.

A parenting fair was held for parents, with groups bringing resources and ideas on how to be a better parent, said Gafford.

Alabama author and Dadeville Kiwanian C.D. Bonner visited with participants while selling and signing his book, “I Talk Slower Than I Think” and donated all proceeds to Jean Dean RIF.

Auburn mascot “Aubie” was a popular visitor, as usual. Also helping out were “Ope” and “Lika,” the mascots from Opelika High School, and the school’s band members played the national anthem. Cub Scout Troop 858 helped with flag ceremony at the beginning.

“We gave overall prizes to male and female winners in each run, but we also gave prizes in eight different age categories,” said Gafford, as well as door prizes and goodie bags. “And this year we had a vacation door prize, a week-long vacation at a Hilton Head timeshare -- that’s a pretty neat door prize.”



The Jean Dean RIF Run to Read through an Opelika historic neighborhood is growing in popularity, and this year it drew about 400 people.

“We couldn’t put on this run without the help of Rich Bailey, our run director and Opelika Kiwanis member, who makes it possible,” said Gafford, noting that chip timing was used this year.

“And we appreciate all the groups who help, including Auburn’s Kappa Kappa Gamma, our biggest source of run volunteers, and Kiwanis helpers and others.

“Our goal is to have sponsors from every county for our two biggest fundraisers, because we are helping kids from every county.”

The next Run to Read will be Nov. 1, 2014, in Opelika, while another big RIF event, the Truel Watts Ride to Read, will draw motorcycle enthusiasts to the Opelika area June 7, 2014.

A pancake breakfast fundraiser coming up March 1 at Cambridge Place,

an assisted living facility in Opelika, also will benefit Jean Dean RIF. The Emblem Club and Cambridge Place put on this breakfast, Gafford said.

Jean Dean RIF, signature service project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, provides three age-appropriate books a year to every Head Start child in Alabama and many in state-sponsored day care. This nationally recognized project has provided well over a million books to more than 460,000 young children in the last 23 years.

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the donate button at [www.jeandeanrif.org](http://www.jeandeanrif.org) or checks written to Jean Dean RIF and mailed to P.O. Box 848, Opelika, AL 36803-0848.

For more information, contact Gafford at [jeandeanrif@gmail.com](mailto:jeandeanrif@gmail.com) or 334-750-9974.

## Alabama coming events

■ Mobile is planning a good time for Kiwanians! Reserve Aug. 1-3, 2014, for the Alabama summer convention at the Battle House Renaissance Hotel in Mobile.

■ The Alabama District will be entertaining Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser of Austria March 24-26, 2014. He will probably make stops in Birmingham and a few other places.