Mid-winter event Feb. 20-21
Centennial kickoff, awards, speakers are on Prattville agenda

Alabama Kiwanians will gather in Prattville Feb. 20-21 for the Mid-winter Conference, which will include a Centennial Kickoff Celebration Dinner and awards on Friday evening plus Saturday sessions focusing on topics to help members and clubs.

The meetings and meals will be at the Legends Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Prattville.

A special guest at Mid-winter will be Kenneth Alovera from the Philippines. He is the Kiwanis International trustee designated as counselor to the Alabama District for 2014-15.

Jannah Bailey, executive director of Child Protect for the Montgomery region, will be the keynote speaker at the Interclub Luncheon. Her agency’s mission is to interview, counsel and be an advocate for children when there are allegations of abuse.

A basic agenda is on Page 9 of this issue of the Kiwanis Kourier. District board meetings will be held Friday afternoon, followed by the Centennial Kickoff Celebration

(See PRATTVILLE, Page 8)

Marking 100 in Detroit and Alabama

The Alabama District of Kiwanis International was well represented at the Kiwanis International Centennial Celebration in Detroit Jan. 22-24.

Kiwanis Governor Brian Rodgers, District Secretary Pat Manasco, Lt. Governor/Past Governor Tammy Driskill and Key Club International Trustee Rip Livingston joined 1,000-plus Kiwanis members from throughout the world.

Detroit was the location of the first Kiwanis Club chartered on Jan. 21, 1915. Members of the Detroit No. 1 Club were hosts for this celebration.

The International Council met to hear updates on The Eliminate Project and to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees in advance of the KI convention in Indianapolis June 25-28.

The Eliminate Project is in its final year, and International Chair Randy DeLay said it has surpassed $78 million. He also talked about the limited time opportunity to purchase and/or recognize others with a Centennial Award. This award will only be offered through June of this year and represents a $1,500 gift.

Recipients will receive a special recognition plaque, medallion and pin. For your contribution, you can be a

(See DETROIT, Page 8)
Lesson of our past and present:
When we build, we will flourish

What an exciting time to be a KIWANIAN! I was honored to attend Kiwanis International’s 100th Birthday Celebration with the Detroit No. 1 Club -- the first club chartered by Kiwanis International.

Over 1,000 Kiwanis members from throughout the world came together to celebrate the difference we have made in this world, all the while encouraging one another to dream big dreams for our future together.

On the plane ride to Detroit, I was reading The Kiwanis Magazine. It wasn’t the 100th anniversary edition that you received in your mailbox, but rather the August 1921 edition. I found it free on Google Books, and what a find it was.

We are often slow to learn from our past, and the words of the International President’s keynote address contained wisdom for us all, almost a century later. The International President that year, J. Mercer Barnett, was also from Alabama.

As I read his words, they were like a message sent across the decades to encourage and remind us of our purpose -- one that has not changed. A key paragraph that struck me said:

“As long as the KIWANIS CLUB is building, so long will KIWANIS flourish. When KIWANIS becomes an accomplishment, it will have died, but as long as it is pursuant, it will live. When KIWANIS has reached its goal, it will recede and become a mutual admiration society and will then function only as a knife and fork luncheon club. When it does this it will automatically cease to be a KIWANIS club, as KIWANIS means building.”

How true those words are today as we lay the foundation for the next century of service. Our future lies in serving the communities we live in and those beyond them where clubs have yet to exist. This is what makes us KIWANIS members. Sometimes we forget this and need to be reminded and that is why these words struck me like a lightning bolt as I read them.

Service is what unites us. It is why

(See GOVERNOR, Page 7)
The 100th anniversary celebration in Detroit Jan. 22-24 drew more than 900 Kiwanians and supporters and was “well-planned and like a mini-convention,” said Alabama District Secretary Pat Manasco. She attended a meeting for district secretaries and also watched the International Council session that was attended by Alabama’s Brian Rodgers and other Kiwanis governors, trustees and officers. Joining them from Alabama for the Friday dessert reception at the Detroit Historical Museum and the Saturday night anniversary celebration were Past Governor Tammy Driskill of Gadsden, who is again serving as lieutenant governor and is a candidate for KI trustee, and Rip Livingston of Homewood High School who is on the board of Key Club International. While exploring the museum exhibit on Kiwanis and its birth in Detroit on Jan. 21, 1915, they got acquainted with Ken Alovera from the Philippines, who is the Alabama District’s designated counselor from the KI Board of Trustees and will attend the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 20-21. SpongeBob SquarePants, who was promoting his new movie, was on hand for photos with Driskill and others. Manasco was photographed with the giant “25 years of women in Kiwanis” logo used at the New Orleans KI convention in 2012, which was included in the Detroit exhibit.
Celebrations around the state

During the anniversary week, clubs around Alabama celebrated 100 years of Kiwanis with cakes, proclamations, fun and fellowship. In the top photo, Kiwanis Club of Opelika members gather around birthday cake. In the middle row, from left, Mayor Bobby Payne presents a 100-year proclamation to Tammy Johnson, president of the Kiwanis Club of Tallassee; at the Kiwanis Club of Valley, president Tammy Merritt holds the cake for the candles to be blown out by Marshall Lane, a member since 1951 who at one time had 62 years of perfect attendance; and in Monroeville, club secretary Phil Allen and member and Lt. Governor Paul England show off their club’s anniversary cake. Vice Governor Keith Graham shared the photo at the bottom of the page, showing the 100th-anniversary logo cake that was served at a joint meeting of the Mobile Kiwanis Club, the Citronelle Kiwanis Club and the Azalea City Kiwanis Club.

Many Alabama clubs shared the story of the beginning of Kiwanis at their celebration meetings. What’s now known as Kiwanis International got its start in Detroit, Mich., on Jan. 21, 1915. Today’s membership in Kiwanis and its K-Family of clubs tops 600,000 people. These clubs collectively raise over $100 million each year for worthy causes and contribute over 18 million volunteer hours to help strengthen local communities.
Members of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville and guests put on their 100-year celebration glasses on Jan. 19, when they invited Past KI Foundation President Bob McCurley to speak at their Division 1 celebration, along with Governor Brian Rodgers. McCurley talked about Kiwanis history and then was surprised with the gift of the new Centennial Award that benefits the Eliminate Project.

Huntsville club hosts centennial dinner

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville hosted a Jan. 19 Division 1 celebration for the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis.

The speaker for the event was Bob McCurley of Tuscaloosa, the Alabama District governor in 1983-84 who later represented Kiwanis and Alabama all over the world while serving as president of the Kiwanis International Foundation, a member of the KI board and KI vice president.

During his time with the KI Foundation, the Kiwanis Children’s Fund was created, the Heritage Society increased by 300 percent, club gifts doubled, Sponsored Youth scholarships tripled, district grants were established, and Kiwanis Foundations were organized in Europe, Central America, Canada and Asia.

After he talked about Kiwanis history, the division honored McCurley with the new Centennial Award, which raises money for the worldwide project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

McCurley published “Alabama District of Kiwanis History, the First 75 years” in 1993, and he plans to have “The First 100 Years of Kiwanis in Alabama” ready in time for the 100th celebration at the Aug. 7-8 District Convention in Tuscaloosa.

While Kiwanians that week were marking the Jan. 21, 1915, date when the Detroit No. 1 Club was chartered, “Kiwanis really got started in Birmingham, Alabama,” McCurley said. At a May 1919 national convention at the Tutwiler Hotel, Birmingham members — many of whom were bankers, lawyers and judges — raised $17,500 in less than 10 hours to buy the copyrighted Kiwanis name from founder Allen Browne, who had his personal interest at heart. That was when the motto changed from “We Trade” to “We Build.”

The Birmingham club was chartered in 1917, followed in 1919 by clubs in Mobile, Gadsden, Huntsville, Selma and Montgomery.

“Kiwanis is really made up of you,”

(See HUNTSVILLE, Page 14)
Bob McCurley

Kiwanis clubs, be a part of the recorded History of Kiwanis by showing others your club and its members.

- **Picture of your club**: Take a picture of a 2015 club meeting and send the picture to rlmccurley@gmail.com to be included in the 100-year Celebration of Kiwanis.
- **A historical picture**: Send a picture from the past of your club or a club event or club project. Ten pictures will be selected for inclusion in the Alabama District Kiwanis History book. Others will be appearing in the Kiwanis Kourier.
- **Each club’s 100-year celebration**: As your club celebrates Ki’s 100-year history, have your club mark the celebration with “100” type activities as suggested by Kiwanis. Hold a special event for youth, Key Clubs, your community or make a donation of 100 hours or 100 dollars to your local project. This is your club’s chance to do something big in your community and tell us about it. The top “100 Celebrations” will be recognized and presented with a special recognition at the District Convention. Be sure to write up the event and send with pictures.
- **Brag on your members**: In the history of Alabama Kiwanis, many now famous and memorable members have been Kiwanians. Some have been U.S. senators, authors, lawyers, doctors, scientists, and Kiwanis leaders. Others have been “difference makers” in their community by their benevolence and club leadership. Let the district know how proud you are of your Kiwanian.

There will be a special program event at the 100-year Celebration during the District Convention in Tuscaloosa Aug. 7-8 for clubs to present and brag on their member or former member. Send in your “special” member with a resume to be included in Alabama’s Kiwanis history.

We need your pictures and articles no later than May 1, 2015, to be included in the 100-year Celebration event and book on the Alabama District Kiwanis History. Please send the historical information listed above to rlmccurley@gmail.com no later than May 1, 2015, for judging and to be included in the published history.

For more information, contact me, Bob McCurley, at P.O. Box 861287, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486, phone 205-799-9092 or email rlmccurley@gmail.com.

Start planning now to attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis June 25-28, 2015.

If ever there was a Kiwanis convention not to miss, this is it! Kiwanians from around the world will celebrate the 100th anniversary in Indianapolis, and members of Circle K, Key Club and Aktion Club will be there to join in the fun.

Be there to exchange ideas, to get techniques to take home to help your club, and to vote for the Alabama District’s Past Governor Tammy Driskill, who is running for the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees.

Make sure your club has its quota — two voting delegates — in the convention hall.

The Alabama delegation has been assigned the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Indianapolis.

Look for convention information and registration now available online at www.kiwanis.org.
Summer convention in Tuscaloosa

New format, new speakers planned when Alabama District gathers Aug. 7-8

By Bob McCurley
Tuscaloosa Convention
Host Committee

The District Convention planned in Tuscaloosa Aug. 7-8, 2015, will be a celebration for everyone: Kiwanis members, spouses and their families. Here is what we have planned:

■ Fantastic and famous speakers everyone will recognize.
■ Special planned and supervised children’s program for every minute parents are enjoying the celebration.
■ A registration fee that covers all meals and convention costs at the lowest price in years.
■ A scholarship for a first-time attendee from clubs under 25 members, thanks to the Kiwanis Clubs of Birmingham and Montgomery.
■ Add to that one night in the brand new Embassy Suites hotel in downtown Tuscaloosa where breakfast is free.

Here’s a brief idea of the program planned (all sessions are general sessions open to everyone):

Friday, Aug. 7, beginning at 4 p.m.:
■ Opening General Session: Kiwanis History
■ Reception and cocktail party included
■ Celebrating Kiwanis 100 Years Dinner
Saturday, Aug. 8:
■ Secrets of Successful Clubs
■ Kiwanis Family History Celebration
■ Kiwanis Stories of Success
■ Kiwanis Interclub Club Celebration
■ Kiwanis for the Future Reception at 3 p.m.

For details, watch the Alabama District home page: alabama.kiwanis.org/.

Governor
(From Page 2)

KIWANIS members from throughout the world find fellowship together such an easy thing at our celebrations and conventions. Service is how we are known in our communities. If it is not, let this be a challenge to renew that commitment to building.

To do this we need to LOVE IT. SHARE IT. LIVE IT. This motto that carries us into the next century of service reminds us that without bringing more members into our clubs, we will not be able to do what needs doing. We will not be able to play a vital role in our communities. We will not be able to dream big. We will not be able to find the needs that are there and have the hands and hearts to come together to fill them.

Is that whisper from President Barnett a challenge or a warning? I suppose that you can take it either way and the outcome is the same. We should use this centennial year as a time to celebrate and honor those who have given so much in our organization and to set us on the proper course for serving the communities we live in. But also to look to the century ahead and ask: who will join you in this purpose-filled journey. Share the joy that comes with being a servant leader in your communities. We all seek purpose in our lives. The next Kiwanis leaders have yet to be asked. They are waiting for you to invite them.

LOVE IT. SHARE IT. LIVE IT.

Have questions? Call the Kiwanis District Office in Birmingham at 205-945-1334
Dinner, where Kiwanis members and clubs who earned Distinguished honors for 2013-2014 will be recognized.

For the Saturday program, “We will use a slightly different format than in the past,” Governor Brian Rodgers said. “Instead of multiple breakout sessions, we will have two different sessions taking place. The first will be Club Leader Education for club presidents and club secretaries. The second will be a District-wide discussion of relevant topics that affect all clubs. This will allow everyone to get all materials.”

Clubs can earn two points toward Distinguished Club status by attending and having their club presidents and secretaries trained.

“I hope that every club can be represented so that the discussion can be a rich and productive one,” Rodgers said.

A buffet breakfast, included in the conference registration fee, will be served just before the opening general session begins at 8:15 a.m.

After the luncheon, “Convention Planning and Delegate 101” for the KI convention in Indianapolis June 25-28 will be covered. Making sure delegates from around the state get voting credentials is important because this year the Alabama District will have a candidate for the KI board of trustees: Past Governor Tammy Driskill of Gadsden.

The Mid-winter Conference fee for Kiwanis members is $85 (includes Saturday breakfast and luncheon), with an additional $40 for the Friday night Centennial Celebration Dinner.

Guests may register for the Friday dinner at $40, the Saturday general session breakfast at $18 and the Interclub Luncheon at $30.

All registrations should be received by Feb. 17. The Alabama District of Kiwanis website at alabama.kiwanis.org has links to the online registration form, as well as the paper version to mail in with a check (you can also find it on Page 10 of this Kourier).

For information, call or email District Secretary Pat Manasco at 205-945-1334 or Dist_Sec@alabama.kiwanis.org. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 800-468-3571; the Kiwanis block rate of $119 expired Jan. 31. The hotel, often referred to by the hotel chain as the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill, is located at 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066.

**Governor-elect Palys and colleagues**

Alabama District Governor-elect Bob Palys (left, seated) is shown with his class of governors-elect and Kiwanis International officers during a November training session in Indianapolis. “I have learned so much, and I am excited about our year ahead,” Palys said. His theme for his 2015-16 term as governor, which follows the 100th-celebration year, is “Team 101: The New Beginning.” A member of the Kiwanis Club of Cullman, he has been active as a Key Club adviser, as well as Kiwanis president and lieutenant governor.
Alabama District of Kiwanis International
Midwinter Convention
Prattville, AL | Marriott Conference Center

Friday, February 20, 2015

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-2:00PM</td>
<td>Jean Dean Reading is Fundamental, Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-3:00PM</td>
<td>Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-4:30PM</td>
<td>Alabama District of Kiwanis International- Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-5:45PM</td>
<td>Cocktail Hour at Oak Tavern Bar in the Hotel</td>
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<td>6:00-7:30PM</td>
<td>Centennial Celebration Kickoff Dinner- Celebrating the Successes of Last Year</td>
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Saturday, February 21, 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15-8:15AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>8:15-9:20AM</td>
<td>Buffet Breakfast and General Session with SLP Program Updates</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-11:30AM</td>
<td>Club Leadership Education: For Club Presidents and Secretaries Points Toward Distinguished Club Recognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:00AM</td>
<td>The Formula Update</td>
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<td>The Formula District Chair, Jamie Brabston</td>
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<td>Governor Brian Rodgers</td>
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<td>10:10-10:40AM</td>
<td>Key Leader Club Challenge</td>
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<td>Jamie Brabston &amp; Key Leader Alumni</td>
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<td>10:50-11:30AM</td>
<td>Youth Protection Guidelines- Every Club Should Attend and Be Represented Risk Management ByLaws Review &amp; Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40-12:15PM</td>
<td>Foundation Updates: Kiwanis International Foundation, Alabama District Foundation, The Eliminate Project The Eliminate Project Chair, Tammy Driskill Kiwanis International Foundation Liaison, Joel Williams Alabama Kiwanis Foundation President, Gordon Ruggles</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-2:00PM</td>
<td>Interclub Luncheon</td>
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<td>Special Guest: Kenneth Alovera, Kiwanis International Trustee (Philippines)</td>
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<td>2:15-2:45PM</td>
<td>Convention Planning and Delegate 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-3:00PM</td>
<td>Closing Session</td>
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## OFFLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Mail Check To: Alabama District of Kiwanis International
85 Bagby Drive, Suite 206 | Birmingham, Alabama 35209

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### Will you be attending the Club Leader Education Session

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<th>Yes- Secretary</th>
<th>No</th>
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### First Time at Midwinter?

| YES | NO |

### REGISTRATION

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Night Centennial Kickoff Dinner &amp; Celebration</td>
<td>$40 Per Attendee</td>
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<td>Kiwanis Member Registration (includes Saturday Breakfast &amp; Lunch)</td>
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<td>Non-Kiwanis Member Saturday Breakfast</td>
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<td>Non-Kiwanis Member Saturday Interclub Lunch</td>
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### Total

| Total | $__________ |

**QUESTIONS?** Contact District Secretary Patricia Manasco (205) 945-1334 or Dist_Sec@alkiwanis.org

Remember annual club gift of at least $10 per member to Kiwanis International Foundation
New ways to help fund Eliminate

Have you picked your number and made your donation yet?

Tammy Driskill, who is heading the Alabama District’s part in the worldwide service project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, is promoting the Save-a-baby-a-day plan and other ways to help fund the Eliminate Project.

Governor Brian Rodgers and his 2014-15 team of lieutenant governors are helping with a Donor Board for each of the 14 divisions.

Kiwanians can choose the amount they wish to donate by filling a spot from $1 to $100 on the Donor Board for each division.

Every dollar you donate gets you a chance to win one of the limited-edition centennial coins commissioned by Kiwanis International for its 100th anniversary celebration.

Fourteen of these commemorative coins -- one for each division -- will be given away at the Mid-winter Conference. The 3-inch-wide discs in an antique brass finish are perfect as desk paperweights or in shadowbox frames. They can be purchased through the Kiwanis International online catalog.

All you need to do is choose your amount and make a donation for the Eliminate Project. Every $1.80 buys injections and saves a baby from a painful death from maternal/neonatal tetanus.

If all 14 divisions of Alabama Kiwanis get 100 donors on board, those amounts from $1 to $100 will total a contribution of $5,000-plus to the Eliminate campaign.

You do not have to be present at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville Feb. 20-21 to donate or win. Contact your club president, lieutenant governor or Governor Brian Rodgers (governor@alkiwanis.org).

Kiwanians can help eliminate MNT around the world and insure that no mother has to watch her baby die because she did not have access to a safe birthing environment or three doses of the tetanus vaccine.

In the “Save a Baby a Day” campaign, your donation of $657 will save the life of 365 babies -- one every day for a year.

Centennial Award

Tammy Driskill of Gadsden is presented with a Centennial Award by Kiwanis International President John Button while in Detroit Jan. 23-24 for the 100th anniversary celebration. Driskill, a past governor of the Alabama District, is the district’s Eliminate Project chair while handling Division 7 lieutenant governor duties for the second time and running for Kiwanis International trustee. She will be on the ballot at the KI convention in Indianapolis June 25-28, and Alabama Kiwanians should make plans to send two voting delegates from each club to help elect Driskill. The new Centennial Award represents a gift of $1,500 to the worldwide Eliminate Project and comes with a lapel pin and framed certificate and medallion.
Provide life-changing opportunities for teens at Key Leader April 17-19

By Jamie Brabston
District Key Leader Coordinator

Registration for Key Leader 2015 is now open! The dates are April 17-19, so don’t miss the April 1 registration deadline.

We need your help identifying those “emerging leaders” in your community for this “can’t miss” opportunity for teens.

Key Leader is the most exciting Service Leadership opportunity of the year. You don’t believe me? Just ask some of these past participants: Key Club Governor Kacie Hines, Key Club lieutenant governors Jeremy Ware and Jacob Dennis and incoming lieutenant governor Sarah Brabston. There are Key Leader graduates all around our great district who have described their Key Leader experience as “awesome” and “life-changing.”

It is our mission as Kiwanians to provide this opportunity to as many of our youth as possible, and we need YOU to help us recruit the students in your division, schools and communities. Our district has committed to filling all 60 spots available for this year’s Key Leader program.

Emerging leaders in your area must attend this exciting, fun and educational weekend at beautiful Camp ASCCA! Clubs can sponsor students to attend. After the April 1 deadline, there will be a $25 late registration fee.

Here are the details for Key Leader 2015:

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

Key Leader is open to all students who are currently in 8th-12th grades, whether or not they are already serving in Key Club or Builders Club. Key Leader has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for Kiwanians to foster interest if they are trying to start a Key Club at their local high school, or increase membership in an existing club. There is no limit on the number of students who may attend from a single school or group. Ideally, we will have representation from all over the Alabama District.

Adult volunteers from the Alabama District will coordinate logistics and supervise the students. If you are interested in volunteering as a chaperone, please let us know. We need more adult volunteers.

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

Online registration is open now at www.key-leader.org.
- Some scholarships may be available, but they will go quickly, so encourage early registration.
- Assistance with transportation may also be available.

Interested in learning more? Visit www.key-leader.org. For more information, contact me, Jamie Brabston, District Chair, at jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com (256-679-6341), or Key Club Lt. Governor/Key Leader Ambassador Jeremy Ware at jware@alabamakeyclub.org.

Kiwanians have been seeing this logo and hearing about The Formula for the past year.

**What is The Formula?**

- **Take something you love.**
- **Share it with others.**
- **Make it a part of your life.**

That’s it in a nutshell — a simple idea that if Kiwanis is a part of our everyday life and we demonstrate to others how much we enjoy the service and fellowship, they will want to join us. And that means more hands for more service.

To learn more, join other Alabama Kiwanians at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville. On Saturday, Feb. 21, Jamie Brabston will lead a discussion of "The Formula" from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Come learn how “The Formula” can strengthen your club and lead to more service and a better community for everyone.

Find out how you can help, too. Kiwanis volunteers around the state are needed to help with The Formula campaign. For more information, contact Jamie Brabston at jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com or 256-679-6341.

Keep up with progress of the KI worldwide service project at www.TheEliminateProject.org
By Kacie Hines
Alabama Key Club Governor, 2014-15

This year I have been honored and proud to serve as the 2014-2015 District Governor of the GREAT Alabama District of Key Club International. Watching Kiwanians celebrate their 100th birthday this month has been an inspiration to Key Clubbers around the world.

Without Kiwanis, Key Club couldn’t be the thriving, largest student-led organization in the world. On behalf of Key Clubbers around the world, thank you, Kiwanians, for everything you do for us and Happy 100th Birthday!

With the support of dedicated Alabama Kiwanians, the 2014-2015 Key Club District Board has enjoyed a wonderful year of service.

Successful rallies, amazing service projects and donations to our District Project have made our year very memorable, but still would not be possible without the help of local Kiwanis clubs.

On Jan. 8, 2014, the Alabama District of Key Club had 4,984 members. As of Jan. 14, 2015, Alabama Key Clubs had 6,333 members.

Clearly, Key Club is continuing to grow here in Alabama. We are very proud of the prosperity of our GREAT Alabama District. Seeing more clubs charter and partner with their local Kiwanis Clubs assures us that the future of the Kiwanis Family is very bright for the next 100 years.

Key Clubbers from all over Alabama have joined together this year to support our District Project Triad: The Eliminate Project, Children’s Hospital’s Dialysis Unit, and Reading Is Fundamental. Many hours have gone into planning and carrying out fun and interesting projects to raise money, awareness and service for these wonderful causes.

Some unique and productive projects this year have been a 5K run, “miracle minutes” hosted at sporting events, and selling custom T-shirts.

One thing is for certain, Key Clubbers can be very creative, and the energy they infuse into service is contagious. I hope that you all have had the opportunity to partner with Key Clubs this year in your service endeavors.

The 63rd annual Key Club District Convention will be held in Mobile March 6-8 at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza hotel. Our theme is “Surf’s Up for Service.” I’m looking forward to seeing all of the dedicated faculty advisers and Kiwanians there supporting Key Club.

Hopefully I will see you all at the Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference, and I can’t wait to celebrate 100 years of Kiwanis in Indianapolis this summer!

Monroeville club’s annual awards night

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville has a longstanding tradition of holding an annual awards banquet each December, with spouses and guests invited. Honors presented at the 2014 event, held at the Vanity Fair Golf Club, included a Hixson Fellowship for Kiwanian Jim Sales, as was provided for in the will of his father, Past Alabama District Governor J.W. Sales, who died July 31, 2014. From left in the top photo are the honoree’s mother, Willean Sales; Jim Sales and his wife, Vanessa; and his sister Jan Brewer. The Monroeville club chose Allen Dunning as its annual Kiwanian of the Year and Pete Black Jr. as its Citizen of the Year; both are Kiwanis members and graduates of Monroe County High School who returned after college and work elsewhere to serve their hometown in business and industry roles, as well as in church and civic service. They are shown in the bottom photo with their wives: Jerrie Sue and Allen Dunning, left, and Pete and Patsy Black, right.
Half a million children thank you for buying books, reading to them

By Cathy Gafford
Executive director
Jean Dean RIF

Over 23,000 at-risk young children got books before Christmas through Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental/Kiwanis.

Thank you for caring about the at-risk children of Alabama … for realizing the need for books in their homes before they start kindergarten … for providing funding as clubs and individuals and for giving your time to help children in your communities.

Thanks for faithfully tending to this need for 24 years! Can you believe it? In 2015-16, the Kiwanis Family in Alabama will have been putting books into homes of at-risk young children for 25 years, a fourth as long as Kiwanis International has been in existence. You all deserve a pat on the back and a hardy “good job!” As I have said before, I am proud to know and work with you.

Thanks also for the donations you sent in at year-end based on our email campaign encouraging your individual support, in addition to that of your clubs. Thanks to your personal generosity, close to eight classrooms of at-risk young children across Alabama were guaranteed three books each from Jean Dean RIF/Kiwanis.

By May of 2015, your combined efforts over the years will have resulted in more than 500,000 of our state’s children with the most need getting over 1.5 million age-appropriate books in their homes since this program began in 1990-91. Sites served through RIF will have received in-kind donations, based on the retail value of the books and the value of the volunteer time donated through the programs, of over $12 million, which will have justified federal grants of four times that amount, over $50 million in additional benefits for the children and families in Alabama communities.

I meet annually with representatives of the sites we serve. All are complimentary of “their Kiwanians” who show the children they care about them and care about reading and make family literacy possible for even the poorest families. They appreciate their partnership with Kiwanis in helping local children.

I’ve had the privilege to meet some of these children we have served as they got older, and all still enjoy reading. They appreciated their RIF books and shared them with younger siblings. Some of them have been fortunate enough to attend Auburn and other colleges in Alabama. Some of the Auburn students have come to help in the warehouse so they could help others get books. They come alone or bring their friends. They “got it.” We helped them. They want to “pay back” and help others.

This is February, 2015, and for close to 25 years, we have read to children in Head Starts and other sites all over Alabama in February. It’s a favorite month for Alabama Kiwanians and the children we serve.

It’s also when we get together for our Alabama District Mid-winter Conference” -- our annual time to celebrate the year before and plan for the future. This year, we’re also celebrating the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis and all of the wonderful things Kiwanians have done for their communities over the years.

I hope you can find time to attend the RIF Coffee at 7:15 a.m. Feb. 21 during the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville so we can touch base about Jean Dean RIF and share ideas for the future. As soon as I know the exact location at the Marriott Legends Conference Center, I’ll put it on the RIF website, www.jeandeannrif.org, and post it on the Jean Dean RIF Facebook page.

Huntsville
(From Page 5)

McCurlay said, “The members are the head of Kiwanis, not the international board or the state board.”

He shared how he joined Kiwanis when his law partner said he should be a member. “I joined not knowing what it was. I thought I was joining the only Kiwanis club in the world,” said McCurlay. And he recalled making a big mistake at his first meeting, when he unknowingly sat down in the regular chair of a longtime club member.

But times, members and clubs have changed, McCurlay said, and clubs should not be afraid to try new things. Adding women members has helped lower the average age, which is now 58, he said, but more younger members are still needed.

Projects have changed, too. “My little club raised $30,000 on a half marathon,” he said. Partnering with another group, they raised $60,000 and split it.

While KI’s worldwide projects have included battling first Iodine Deficiency Disorder and now Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus, McCurlay noted that historically Kiwanis service has been community based -- “doing things in your community.”

And 100 years of service projects are helping change society. “Kiwanis is making a difference, one child at a time,” McCurlay said.

Deadline for the spring edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is April 1, 2015
Alabama Circle K District charters 4 clubs, reorganizes in 4 divisions

By Jessica Bloom
Alabama Circle K District Governor

The Circle K focus this year has been growth. We have chartered four new clubs in the Alabama District during 2014-15:

- Wallace State Community College — Hanceville
- Wallace Community College — Eufaula
- Alabama State University
- Southern Union State Community College -- Opelika

We have recently realigned our divisions in order to facilitate further growth. With fewer divisions, we are looking to increase the unity of clubs within common geographic regions. This will also allow the district to allocate spending in ways that provide better resources to develop members and chapters.

Clubs helping clubs

Each of the four divisions includes multiple strong local clubs, which should allow lieutenant governors to better draw upon the resources and expertise of successful clubs in ways that can better help weaker chapters and build new ones.

We are continuing to support the OneSpark Campaign, our district project to help Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

We are currently in our rally season. We have a variety of activities planned across the district (bowling, go-karting, roller skating) in order to increase fellowship within the newly formed divisions and to elect lieutenant governors for 2015-16.

Convention in Mobile

The 57th annual Alabama Circle K District Convention will be Feb. 27-March 1 at the Renaissance Marriott Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile. The theme is “Mobile Murder Mystery,” and we will have a murder mystery throughout the event.

Congressman Bradley Byrne will be our keynote speaker. We also have a variety of other speakers coming in to present workshops and train chapter officers.

We will have a Masquerade Ball. Teddy Williams, a piano act from Atlanta, will be performing at the dance.

Our annual RIF Luncheon during convention will be held off-site at Felix’s Fish Camp.

We are currently selling convention sponsorships. The deadline for program inclusion is Feb. 14.

Notes from the District Secretary

Pat Manasco has reminders for clubs and members:

- District directory information with club officers, contact information and meeting sites is online at alabama.kiwanis.org, and she is taking corrections and additional information.
- Anyone interested in running for vice governor for 2015-16 should contact her at the district office for information.
- IRS 990 forms are due by Feb. 15.

Plan to attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis June 25-28 and support Past Alabama Governor Tammy Driskill for international trustee.

Support Reading Is Fundamental with readers and donations for books and other needs