A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

By: Greg Beard, 2011-2012 Governor

The LaMissTenn Regional Conferences may be over, but there is still service to be done and FUN to be had by all. At the Conferences, the workshops and meetings provided Kiwanians with new and better ideas of membership and fundraising drives and provided opportunities for us to fellowship with one another.

At the Regional Conferences, I noted we are at the halfway point through this Kiwanis year and presented a game plan for the rest of 2012 for us to finish strong:

(1) TRY SOMETHING NEW
Ask someone to join your club, remember, we want each club to end the year +1 in net membership; Try a new service project, like Terrific Kids or BUG program; Conduct a Community Analysis to see what need is in your community;

Governors Message - continued on page 2

KIWANIS ELIMINATE PROJECT - ELIMINATING MATERNAL NEONATAL TETANUS (MNT)

Story by: Matt Yates, President of the Baton Rouge Downtown Kiwanis Club

In 1871 General Robert E. Lee’s horse Traveller stepped on a nail and contracted tetanus, Traveller was subsequently shot as there was no cure for this terrible disease, also known as lockjaw. According to Wikipedia the “tetanus toxoid vaccine was developed by P. Descomby in 1924, and was widely used to prevent tetanus induced by battle wounds during World War II”. In the United States “widespread vaccination against tetanus has made the disease almost non-existent”, according to the Centers for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/tetanus/downloads/dis-tetanus-color-office.pdf). The CDC further states “Vaccination to prevent tetanus began in the late 1940s. In 1947 through 1949, before widespread use of the vaccine, an average of 580 cases of tetanus and an average of 472 deaths from tetanus were reported.” The CDC further states “Today, tetanus is uncommon in the United States, with an average of 29 reported cases annually from 1996 through 2008. Nearly all cases of tetanus are among people who have never received a tetanus vaccine, or adults who don’t stay up to date on their 10-year booster shots.”

Kiwanis Eliminate continued on page 3
Governors Message - continued from page 1

Try a new fundraiser, one for the ELIMINATE Project; by giving you will be part of the worldwide project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus; Try a new meeting place; Maybe some new food. Think outside of the box.

(2) REFRESH YOUR CLUB
Are your meetings engaging and productive? Are your service projects meaningful? Find out what your members really think of their club maybe by doing a Club Assessment. Find ways to excite members and impress guests. Just find out what they are thinking.

(3) MAKE YOUR CLUB ABOUT SERVICE
Service is our trademark; Service is what we do best; Service to our communities. Don’t forget, people are joining to do service. Make service projects, socials and meetings fun. Invite your Service Leadership Programs (SLPs) to your meetings or service projects, they will make it FUN. Combine a regular meeting with a service project to show potential members what your club is doing to make a difference in your community.

(4) INVITE FAMILIES/FRIENDS
Remember, individuals can always find service, fellowship, and fun somewhere else. People like to join people. When we offer members the chance to serve alongside their family and friends, we are more likely to have a greater number of members wanting to participate, make it a Family Affair. We joined Kiwanis to do something and to belong to something.

(5) HAVE FUN
Make time to have fun together other than at meetings. We spend more time together at meetings than we do at service projects and social events. The company we keep is important, the meetings, the service projects, the socials, the conferences/conventions—all are opportunities we learn from each other, all are opportunities to share our ideas and to have fun with people we like to be with.

This 5 point plan applies to all of our clubs, no matter how often a club meets, where a club meets or when a club meets.

We have a big event coming our way—the International Convention in New Orleans beginning June 28th. We will show our fellow Kiwanian friends what this “Great and Historical Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis” has to offer: the sites, the sounds, and the taste of New Orleans.

I am proud to say that LaMissTenn has over 420 registrants for the Convention, the most of any other Kiwanis District. If you have not registered, there is still time to do so. Visit the District website, www.lamisstenn.org and click on the “2012 International Convention” tab.

Also, one of our own, Past Governor Dennis Oliver, from the Kiwanis Club of Gulfport, Miss. is a candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee. If you will be attending the International Convention, please remember to show your support for Dennis and ask our Kiwanis friends in other Districts to vote for Dennis as International Trustee.

So the rest of 2012 is upon us. We have a lot of wonderful moments coming, but we need to be prepared for them. Let us not get to October and say “we should have done this, we could have done that”. Let us do what we believe is great service, service not only to the children, but to our clubs and communities. And the only way to do great service is to love what we do—that is to have a PASSION. I ask you to find a place of service and be passionate about it. And if you are passionate about it, you can and you will make a difference.

For the rest of 2012, join me with the PASSION to make our clubs stronger, more meaningful to members and while we do what Kiwanis is about—that is “serving the children of the world”. Making a difference, that’s what we do as Kiwanians.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Jeri Penn, International First Lady

Fellow Kiwanians, I am Jeri Penn and I am incredibly excited to serve this wonderful organization and all of you this year. We’ve dedicated this year to mothers and children. As a member of the committee dedicated to promoting women in Kiwanis we have a lot exciting events planned for May as we celebrate Mother’s Day and continue our campaign to Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus. You can learn more by visiting our website www.theeliminateproject.org I invite you to join us by planning an event to promote and celebrate the role of mothers as we celebrate Mother’s Day in our communities around the world. I also would like to ask you to help us protect the connection between mothers and their children by contributing to the eliminate project. As a mother and grandmother I know the joy of holding a healthy child in my arms.

Let’s use Mother’s Day 2012 as our opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and their mothers.

www.lamisstenn.org

April Issue
The Global Story on tetanus is quite different, according to the CDC. “Disease caused by a toxin from the bacteria is always possible for people who are not vaccinated, because the tetanus bacteria are present everywhere in our environment,” says Dr. Vance Dietz of CDC’s Global Immunization Division. “Because we have a very safe and effective tetanus vaccine, parents don’t need to worry about seeing their child suffer from this disease. Unfortunately, cases of tetanus are still common in other parts of the world and it kills thousands of babies each year. In places where birthing conditions are not sanitary, tetanus in newborns is a real threat. The World Health Organization estimates that 59,000 newborns died of tetanus in 2008.” The article also states that Maternal Neonatal Tetanus is very underreported.

Most of us only think about tetanus when we step on a nail or other object, but over 60,000 parents in many other parts of the world do have to worry about their children dying from neonatal tetanus at birth every year. Therefore Kiwanis International has teamed up with UNICEF to combat this terrible disease. The bacterium which causes neonatal tetanus is present in soil everywhere. It is especially abundant in soil rich in animal manure, which fertilizes many crops in the world, and the disease is especially prevalent in areas with high temperatures and poor sanitation. According to the WHO “In many countries, deliveries take place in unhygienic circumstances, putting mothers and their newborns at risk for a variety of life-threatening infections. Maternal and neonatal tetanus have been among the most common lethal consequences of unclean deliveries and umbilical cord care practices. When tetanus develops, mortality rates are extremely high, especially when appropriate medical care is not available. And yet, maternal and neonatal tetanus deaths can be easily prevented by hygienic delivery and cord care practices, and/or by immunizing mothers with tetanus vaccine.” (http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/diseases/MNTE_initiative/en/index.html). Kiwanis International hopes to change this through you and me.

Clarissa A. Preston, Lt. Governor, Division 8B, will be addressing us on this important issue and she will likely show some very disturbing scenes of children affected by neonatal tetanus. One photo of a child with neonatal tetanus kept popping up as I did some on line research for this article. I was tempted to show the photo, but it was just too graphic. But Wikipedia gives the following word picture for us to consider as we begin to think about what kind of financial support we will give to this project. “Tetanus often begins with mild spasms in the jaw muscles (lockjaw). The spasms can also affect the chest, neck, back, and abdominal muscles. Back muscle spasms often cause arching, called opisthotonos. Sometimes the spasms affect muscles that help with breathing, which can lead to breathing problems. Prolonged muscular action causes sudden, powerful, and painful contractions of muscle groups. This is called tetany. These episodes can cause fractures and muscle tears. Other symptoms include drooling, excessive sweating, fever, hand or foot spasms, irritability, swallowing difficulty, uncontrolled urination or defecation.” The Kiwanis Eliminate Project web site (http://sites.kiwanis.org/Kiwanis/en/theELIMINATEproject/home.aspxweb) adds that “The effects of the disease are excruciating — tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch.” So the child is so sensitive to touch that the parent is unable to comfort the baby as it dies from this terrible disease. A simple vaccine and improved delivery techniques can virtually eliminate this disease, but it takes money.

Traveller could have been saved from tetanus if he had been born 140 years later by a simple vaccine. And Kiwanian’s can save children and mothers in developing countries today from maternal neonatal tetanus by making this vaccine available to them through Project Eliminate. For those of you who remember the Iodine Deficiency project a few years back you know that Downtown Kiwanis successfully played a big role in dealing with a disease which affected children worldwide. For you newer Kiwanian’s who don’t know about the Iodine Deficiency project, I urge you to go on line and look it up. Also ask Marjorie Green about the project! She headed up the Downtown Kiwanis Iodine Deficiency Project and she led our club in changing the world one child and one community at a time. Marjorie has agreed to advise and assist Jane Lacour (Chair), Tyler Miley and Kristi Bourgeois, who will lead Downtown Kiwanis in Project Eliminate! So be ready to learn more about this disease from our Lt. Governor, Clarissa A. Preston, when she speaks to our club. And open your hearts and wallets to help Jane, Tyler and Kristi as they lead us to ELIMINATE Maternal Neonatal Tetanus.
REGION I MID-YEAR REGIONAL ENJOYABLE AND EDUCATIONAL

By: Dennis Oliver, Candidate for International Trustee

—Pictured are left to right Governor Greg addressing the audience; Linda Ramsey, Past Governor and Otha Britton, Lt. Governor of 1A. Linda received a River of Life from Governor Greg.

—Dignitaries pictured left to right are Robert Benoit, Governor-Elect; Bascom Allen, Past Governor; Dennis Oliver, Eliminate Project Chair; Linda Ramsey, Key Leader Chair and Greg Beard, Governor.

—Pictured left to right are Randy Brundige, Mayor of Martin, presenting Governor Greg Beard with a proclamation stating that it was “Greg Beard Day” in Martin, TN on Saturday, March 17, 2012

—Bill Austin, Trustee for Region I welcomes Kiwanis members from Region I to the Mid-Year Regional held in Martin, Tennessee.

—Dennis Oliver addresses the attendees.

—Kiwanians listen and take notes and at the many breakout sessions available.

GOVERNOR GREG VISITS TUPELO KIWANIS CLUB

—Henry Nash, Past Governor 1982-1983, receives his River of Life framed pictured from Governor Greg Beard. Henry is also the Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the District Foundation.

—Greg Beard visits with President Trentice Imbler.

—Pictured left to right are unidentified club member, Governor Greg, unidentified club member and President Trentice Imbler.

Beignets, Mardi Gras, Kiwanians—oh my!

It's sensory overload in this little corner of the American South. Jazz fills the streets, mingling with the aroma of hot beignets. Pralines stick in your teeth as you watch the riverboats paddle by. It's a place like no other. It's New Orleans. And you're different here.

Did you know this is a special convention year? Kiwanis, Circle K, Aktion Club and CKI alumni are all in New Orleans at the same time to recognize another great year of Kiwanis-family service. And we'll be doing service as well. CKI members will take part in the annual Large Scale Service Project. Aktion Club and CKI Alumni will team up for a service project and Kiwanis members will have several options for service during convention, including ones with other Kiwanis-family members. It's certainly going to be a busy couple weeks!

So come be a part of the big crowd that's expected in New Orleans for convention! Experience the workshops, entertainment, business and celebration of 25 years of women in Kiwanis. Together, let's recognize our successes & make plans for the future.

Stimulate your senses in New Orleans, June 28-July 1!
GOVERNOR TRAVELS TAKES HIM TO POINTE COUPEE KIWANIS CLUB

On Thursday, March 8th Governor Greg took his travels to the Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club in New Roads, La. Upon his early arrival members of the club took Governor Greg on a tour of their ongoing major service project, Bouys on the River.

BUOY PROJECT ON FALSE RIVER

By: Kenneth St. Romain, President Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club

Since the mid 1990’s the Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee has worked to establish and maintain the “no wake” buoy system on False River. The project was originally founded to assist law enforcement agencies in recognizing the “no wake” boundary on False River, which is now 300 feet from the shoreline.

The buoy project has evolved through the assistance of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriffs Department, the City of New Roads, Pointe Coupee Fire District 5, the Kiwanis of Pointe Coupee, and Chustz Surveying, Inc. to provide additional benefits to boaters on the river. Solid orange buoys have been placed at exact quarter mile intervals, with even numbered buoys on the New Roads and La. Highway 1 side of the river, and odd numbered buoys placed on the Island side of False River. The regular white and orange striped buoys are then placed between each of the solid orange buoys, which reinforce the no wake zone.

The solid orange numbered buoys provide a point of reference to a boater in the event of an accident or breakdown on False River. By calling 911 and stating which buoy you are closest to response may then be instantly dispatched by boat, air, or by road, depending on the situation. Each orange numbered buoy is charted by the 911 response team, and will instantly provide a location on False River, as well as a nearby 911 physical road address, and a GPS location on the water.
The solid orange numbered buoys may also be used as a point of reference for navigation on False River, to aid boaters in locating a camp or residence. All who utilize False River should be familiar with the buoy program, and use it to make False River one of the safest lakes for boating in our State!

He came, he saw and most of all, he listened to the people…
DIVISIONS 4A, 4B, 8B AND 13 COME TOGETHER FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL KIWANIS ONE DAY AT THE K-BAR-B YOUTH RANCH

By: Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

What a huge success! Over 150 Kiwanians and Key Clubbers from 23 clubs converged on the K-Bar-B Youth Ranch, in Lacombe, La. for one large scale service project, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of New Orleans. Additional special guests included members of the Northlake-Mandeville Rotary Club and St. Timothy Methodist Church. Cooking, tree trimming, framing, painting, gardening, carpentry, computer installing, purging/shredding of files … the list was endless! A delicious lunch of jambalaya and salad from the Cortana Club fed the masses. The brownies (homemade that morning by the K-Bar-B Kitchen and Kiwanis) and Uncle Al’s Snowballs were a delicious treat! Each club donated funds to defray the cost of materials and the meal. The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans thanks all of you for your support of the Ranch!

DIVISION 14 ACTIVITIES
By: John McCay, Lt Governor, Div. 14

Kiwanis has been all over the news and newspapers in Division 14 during the last couple of months. The clubs of Division 14 came together to sponsor the Harlem Wizards Basketball Team that played against our very own Team “K” on February 14th. This was a fundraiser to purchase an AED for the D’Iberville High School in honor of Fred Dunbar, a football player who died on the field in September. We had over 500 people in the stands and looking forward to another game next year. Also on that day, we had a reorganization meeting at our West Harrison/Hancock County Club. They had a great meeting and the club is looking forward to a great year! Division 14 had a great time and was well represented at our Regional. Six out of eight clubs were present and everyone left revived and renewed for Kiwanis. We will be hosting our Governor Greg Beard at a meeting being sponsored by the Orange Grove Club on April 24th. As you can see, the eight clubs of Division 14 are busy and always finding ways of serving the children and our community.

CLUB TECHNOLOGY
By: Kevin Domingue, Club Technology Chair 2011-12 - kevin.domingue@lafayettekiwanis.org

Every year when I get to a KI convention, I select the workshops I want to attend, and add them to my schedule on my smartphone. I make sure to set the reminder for each event, because those of you who know me know that I might get so excited about something that pops up spontaneously at a convention that I forget where I am supposed to be. But did you know that is already available for you without having to type a single keystroke? It is. And it is just a simple example of ALL the things that can be done with technology to simplify our lives and better manage our clubs. Since you are reading this news-letter then I KNOW you are the type of Kiwanian who will be going to the convention, so just click here and you can add all of your events to your personal online schedule and then download them. I will buy a Hurricane (or equivalent cocktail) for the first person who finds my workshop and tells me that s/he put it on her/his schedule – you will have to read the descriptions, because I am not listed yet as the presenter.

SEE YOU IN NOLA!

INTERCLUB RELATIONS
By: Cal Robbins, Interclub Relations Chair 2011-12

Interclub Participation
Inter-club Opportunities - Part 2

Last month I discussed some Inter-club opportunities you should take advantage of, here are a couple more. Is a member of your club the Lieutenant Governor for your Division? Every time he makes and official visit to another club you have the start of an Inter-club. Get a few more members and go along. Every once in a while a member of our club is the speaker at another club, once again you have the start of an Inter-club. Support your fellow Kiwanian, recruit a few more members and have an Inter-club when he/she speaks. If a member of your club plans to make up a meeting at another club, again, you have the beginning of an Inter-club.

New club in the area, existing clubs are encouraged to inter-club with new clubs as a way of helping build the new club. This helps increase the overall membership of Kiwanis, making our Divisions and District stronger.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Submitted by: Richard “Woody” Wood, District Community Service Chairman

Community Service is a term used to describe the act of volunteering one’s self or club in order to provide services and help benefit the community and the world. There are many ways that community service can be performed. One example is reading to children and providing them with their very own book. Just look at all of the smiling faces below from children around the world.

One of the best ways for you and your club to reach out in community service is to participate in the Worldwide Service Project (ELIMINATE)

With The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This deadly disease steals the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. The effects of the disease are excruciating – tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch.

To eliminate MNT from the Earth, more than 100 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take US$110 million — and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.

Kiwanis and UNICEF joined forces to tackle iodine deficiency disorders, achieving one of the most significant public health successes of the 20th century. Now, they are eliminating MNT from the face of the Earth. And in doing so, the project will reach the poorest, most neglected mothers and babies with additional lifesaving health care. The end of this one disease means the beginning of better health for so many families.

Every day we are faced with the potential for service. Just stop for a moment and think about the last time you helped someone and no one knew about it; remember how great it made you feel? We, as individuals, can offer service to our community in so many different ways. Just think about the impact your own Kiwanis Club and its members could have on your community.

The following list gives some examples of Community Service Projects in which you and your club can become involved.

- Become involved with a senior citizen center or nursing home.
- Be a big brother or sister to a child.
- Start a Terrific Kids or Bug Program at a local school.
- Local community activities such as a canned food drive for the Salvation Army.
- Be a mentor at your local school.
- Start an AKTION CLUB in your community.

There are so many more Community Service Projects that can involve you and your club. Remember that the reward for service will always be yours whether it is a smile or a handshake or some other type of thanks.

Don’t forget to send me your nominations for Teacher, Firefighter, and Lawman of the year in your community. I must receive them by July 1, 2012. Nominating forms can be found on the District Web-Site.
A HUMAN AND SPIRITUALS MOMENT
By: Court Crow, Human and Spiritual Values District Chair

Potato Chips

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted and smiled at him.

His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime! Embrace all equally!

Have lunch with God...... bring chips.

God still sits on the throne. You may be going through a tough time right now but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that only He can. Keep the faith!

Let's continue to pray for one another.

Here is the prayer:

Father, I ask You to bless my friends, relatives and Kiwanis buddies reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of Your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through Your grace. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. In the Lord's precious name,

Amen.

The goal of Special Olympics Project UNIFY® is to activate youth around the country to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change—fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities through sports and education programs.

Budgets for projects can range from $100 to $5,000. The deadline is rolling through May 31, 2012. Apply today! Copy the following link for application.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFZtZzdwaWhyWkdCODIrbEi0eEjPMVE6MQ

Special Olympics grants available

Submitted By: Neil Simmons, YC:PO Chairman

Do you see a need for a project to help persons with intellectual disabilities? Your idea may be a great fit for a Special Olympics Project UNIFY® grant.

To be eligible, you must be between the ages of 12 to 20, or a current undergraduate student in college. A Special Olympics North America program is required to be your main partner organization. Projects must demonstrate the core essence of service-learning.
Kiwanis

Proposed Standard Form for Club Bylaws
More flexible, adaptable bylaws for Kiwanis’ next 100 years

Even though Kiwanis will soon turn 100, we’re looking to the future, not the past. With that in mind, a Kiwanis International task force has proposed a new Standard Form for Club Bylaws with Kiwanis’ next 100 years in mind.

The Standard Form for Club Bylaws states each club’s agreement with Kiwanis International on basic standards to belong to the organization and to use the Kiwanis names and marks.

The current Standard Form often includes a high level of detail that, for the most part, probably is no longer helpful or necessary in modern society. The new proposal reduces the rules prescribed by Kiwanis International and provides greater flexibility and autonomy to clubs. It also simplifies the language, increases global applicability and applies to traditional and nontraditional clubs.

The Kiwanis International Board is sharing the new proposal for discussion purposes to learn what questions or concerns members may have before the board ultimately adopts the final wording later this year. Members are urged to review the proposal, which includes a summary of changes and frequently asked questions, at www.KiwanisOne.org/proposedclubbylaws. Comments may be sent to the Kiwanis International Office at bylawsspecialist@kiwanis.org.

There will also be two forums on this topic at the 2012 Kiwanis International convention.

Before the proposed new Standard Form can be adopted, some provisions of the Kiwanis International Bylaws first will have to be amended. The Kiwanis International council adopted some of these revisions in January 2012; other amendments will be considered at the 2012 Kiwanis International convention. You can review these at www.KiwanisOne.org/proposedclubbylaws.

We hope each club will take this opportunity to review the proposed club bylaws and provide comments, and send two delegates to the 2012 Kiwanis International convention to vote on corresponding changes to the Kiwanis International bylaws. See you in New Orleans!

THINGS I KNOW THAT YOU MAY NOT (ALL DISTRICTS)

- To date the Eliminate project has raised $9.4 million in cash and pledges.
- In North America - Kansas, Michigan and Western Canada are all showing growth in membership at this point in the year.
- In Asia – Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines South and Australia all showing growth so far.
- Each issue of the Kiwanis Magazine reaches 154,000 members.
- Our electronic communications supplement, KI Update is published in 8 languages & is distributed to 40,000 Kiwanians.
- A total of 4,300 people have downloaded the Kiwanis, CKI or Key Club App to their Apple or Android smart phone.
- The percentage of members bringing their spouse or a guest to convention has remained virtually the same the past several conventions (15%-18%)
- Top 5 countries of traffic origin for www.Kiwanis.org
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION - APRIL BRINGS MANY OPPORTUNITIES

By: Julia Carter, District Chair Kiwanis International Foundation

Skip-A-Meal

For the Kiwanis family the Skip-A-Meal program is a tradition – and an opportunity. Each April your club’s participation in Skip-A-Meal helps KIF extend your Kiwanis impact. Skip-A-Meal gifts go to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, which supports Kiwanis’ Leadership Programs -- from youth programs like K-Kids & Key Club to Aktion Club for adults with disabilities. Your club’s Skip-A-Meal gift also helps the KIF provide grants to Kiwanis clubs and districts to help them engage in service projects that improve children’s lives. Projects that clubs and districts would Individual or club participation is crucial to continue serving the children of the world. Join the Kiwanis family by skipping just one meal during the last week in April. Your support will help fund the growing number of grants provided through the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

How you can help: First of all, make Skip-A-Meal a fun-filled event. Think outside the box when devising your program. For example, invite a local dietician to discuss healthy eating habits, have a club pitch-in and vote for the best dish, or use Skip-A-Meal as a way to kick-off a weight-loss program. Begin publicizing the event before the designated Skip-A-Meal week.

Schedule an appropriate speaker who can inform your club members about Skip-A-Meal at least one month prior to the event. Send e-mail reminders to your members two days before your club meeting or call those who do not have e-mail. Skip the meal at your weekly club meeting and contribute the cost of that meal, or bring your meal and contribute what you normally would spend. Send your contribution to the Kiwanis International office by using the guide below. Every Kiwanis-family member, and non-Kiwanian, is able to participate in Skip-A-Meal. K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Clubs, Circle K Clubs, Aktion Clubs are eligible!

Places of worship, schools, businesses, other service and civic groups, government offices, and more can help make a difference to children worldwide through their contributions.

IRS Time

Yes, April brings the government into our lives. If you had to pay more than was withheld last year, consider making an individual tax deductible donation(S) to any of the following: Skip-A-Meal, Kiwanis Leadership Society, Kiwanis Children’s Fund, Memorials/ Tributes, George F. Hixson Fellowship, Diamond Level Hixson, Ambassador, or Tablet of Honor.

INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE CANDIDATE DENNIS OLIVER GETS HIS HANDS DIRTY!

Past Governor, Eliminate Project District Chair, Candidate for International Trustee, are just a few titles that describe Dennis Oliver. On March 31th he added another title to the end of his name. Maintenance Man. Dennis participated in the 3rd Annual Kiwanis One Day Service Project at K-Bar-B Ranch in Covington, La. hosted by the New Orleans Kiwanis Club. Clubs from Divisions 4A, 4B, 8A, 8B and 13 participated.

Pictured are Past Governor Russ Kercher from the Mandeville Kiwanis Club and Dennis Oliver as they enjoy a delicious lunch. Emily and Dan McCormick from the Crescent City Kiwanis Club in New Orleans take a break from raking with Dennis Oliver. South Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club members Bridgette Hardy, President, Clarrisa Preston, Lt. Governor Division 8B and Lillian Grossley, Treasurer rolled up their sleeves and got dirty with Dennis Oliver!
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`Foundation Contributions continued on page 13`
WELCOME TO LA.-MISS.-W.TENN. DISTRICT’S NEWEST MEMBERS

Avila, Karen - Saint Bernard-Arabi
Barbalace, Richard J. - LSU, Baton Rouge
Basar, Steve - Memphis
Bostick, Reid K. - Corinth
Bourgeois, Tina - Southwest Contraband
Broome, Steve - Millington
Broussard, Barbara - St. Martinville
Byles, Aaron - Olla
Calvit, Pam S. - Pineville
Carl, Robert D. - Germantown
Decareaux, Brenda - Ponchatoula
Decareaux, Kenneth - Ponchatoula
Faucett, Lauren - Pascagoula
Fitch, Sandy, Ramada Conference Ctr. - New Iberia
Grossley, John E. - South Baton Rouge
Gutekunst, Patricia C. - St. Martinville
Huggins, Dan - Union City

Lambert, Adam - Algiers Morning Edition
Leblanc, Lou Ann - Ponchatoula
Legg, Megam A. - Vernon
Lockett, Raymond - Baton Rouge-Early Risers
Longacre, Kimberly - Martin
Negrotto, Louis J. - Dawn Busters
Powers, John - Algiers Morning Edition
Powers, Kathy - Algiers Morning Edition
Rowell, Amy M. - Pascagoula
Scarborough, John R. - Germantown
Schmitt, Yvonne S. - Algiers Morning Edition
Siler, Jackie C. - Martin
Staples, Bill - Dawn Busters
Von Wilpert, Marni - Greenville
White, Leslie - Acadiana-Lafayette
Wintory, Debra - Greenville

In Memoriam

He left us quietly, His thoughts unknown, But left us a memory, We are proud to own;
So treasure him Lord, In Your garden of rest, For when on earth, He was one of the best.

Thomas Laveon Dixon - North Shreveport
Harold Jenkins - Union City
Louis Michot – Lafayette
LaMissTenn Kiwanis AEDs: 6 lives saved...and counting

1. A 42-year-old father picking up his son from Bon Lin Middle School in Shelby County, TN was saved by an assistant principal and a nurse, using CPR and the AED on site. (August 2009) This AED was one of many provided to Shelby County schools through the Kiwanis Club AED Project.

2. A mother of 3 attending a performance at Covington High School in Covington, LA was saved by a nurse on site, using CPR and the AED that was donated to the school by the Covington Kiwanis Club. (October 2010)

3. A football umpire on the sidelines of a football game at Lafayette High School in Lafayette, LA was saved by early CPR and the AED that was on site. (November 2010) All Lafayette Parish high schools have an AED through a joint effort of the Lafayette area Kiwanis Clubs and local businesses.

4. A freshman football player at a scrimmage at Breaux Bridge High School in Breaux Bridge, LA was saved by the coaches performing early CPR and the AED on site. (May 2011). The coaches, principals and nurses had an emergency plan in place and had practiced it several times simulating an incident during practice. This AED was provided by the DePont Breaux Kiwanis Club.

5. A contractor working on the air conditioning system at Martin Middle School collapsed in the cafeteria. The school nurse began CPR and shocked him twice with the AED before EMS arrived. (August 8, 2011). The AED used was the first of 16 AEDs purchased by the Martin Kiwanis Club.

6. A senior basketball player at Lafayette High School in Oxford, MS, was saved when the coaches performed CPR and used the AED to restart his heart. (January 13, 2012.) This AED was one of 7 AEDs that have been provided to area schools by the Oxford Kiwanis Club.

7. It's only a matter of time before another one of our Kiwanis-supplied AEDs is used to save another person’s life. Has your club done what you can do at an area school to be certain that an AED is available if and when the time comes? If not, contact Pam Morgan - aed@lamisstenn.org and make sure your school has an AED. It’s only a matter of time...
MATERNAL NEONATAL TETANUS = ELIMINATE

By: Dennis Oliver, District Coordinator, Eliminate Project  Ph: 228-832-6786
EM: DMOKiwans@aol.com

Club Leaders, you and I and 600,000 Kiwanians across the world are joining hands to wipe a disease off the face of the earth.

WOW!!! WHAT AN AWESOME PRIVILEGE!!!

FACTS:

1. A baby dies every 9 minutes due to a lack of vaccine for tetanus.
2. 160 will die today.
3. The cure is three $.60 shots ($1.80) for the mother. She and all her babies will be protected.
4. Kiwanis will raise 110 million dollars by 2015 to shout to the world "NO MORE MNT!"
5. This will be one of the greatest stories in history. JUST LIKE IDD!

So, the challenge is before you, me, every member and every club:

...Have you had a chance to consider your personal gift?
...Has your club discussed possible projects for ELIMINATE?
...Has your Board of Directors discussed all ways for your club to get started?

Contributions from club treasuries, Division and District Foundations, Projects, Community partners, every member participation, etc.

Note: All monies collected are credited to your club. Reference: www.TheEliminateProject.org

There are Division Coordinators ready and willing to present a program or otherwise help you PLAN!!!!

NEEDED TODAY! CLUB COORDINATORS!!!

If you haven't already, please assign a member to be your Club Coordinator. This member will receive all ELIMINATE information, help the Club with planning, report Club activity to his/her Division Coordinator.

My suggestion is to get started toward the best you can be! You will be surprised!!!

CONGRATULATIONS AND A HEART FELT THANKS TO:

...GOVERNOR GREG BEARD AND HIS WIFE, LISA, PLEDGE $25,000 AS A MAJOR GIFT DONOR.

...CLARISSA PRESTON, LT. GOVERNOR OF 8B, ANNOUNCES HER CLUB, SOUTH BATON ROUGE WILL BE LAMISSTENN’S FIRST MODEL CLUB BY PLEDGING $24,000 OVER 5 YEARS.

As your club gets started, your contribution will start saving babies right now. (1 baby saved =$1.80)

Thank you in advance for your gift, your Club's involvement, and being part of the 2015 announcement------NO MORE MNT!!!
KEY LEADER

By: Linda Ramsey, Past Governor

KEYS TO EXCELLENCE

The Key Leader program is built on five essential principles. These principles reflect our mission to inspire young people to achieve their personal best through service leadership:

- **Personal Integrity**: Doing the right thing
- **Personal Growth**: Developing in mind, body, and spirit
- **Respect**: Showing consideration for self, others, and property
- **Building Community**: Developing relationships to achieve positive goals
- **Pursuit of Excellence**: Expecting and achieving the best

ABOUT KEY LEADER

Key Leader is a weekend experiential leadership program for today's young leaders. This life-changing event focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership-development experience. A Key Leader will learn the most important lesson of leadership—it comes from helping others succeed.

Participants begin by attending a Key Leader conference, which is a weekend retreat. Large and small group workshops, discussions and team-building activities take place over the course of the weekend. Students have opportunities to learn leadership skills that will help them to change their schools, communities, and world for the better. While exploring leadership in a whole new way, participants will make amazing new friends and have experiences they will never forget. Positive, ongoing interaction with other Key Leader graduates offers continuing reinforcement, encouragement and growth of leadership skills.

Since April 2005 Key Leader has served more than 16,400 students at 317 Key Leader events in 39 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, Malaysia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, El Salvador and Singapore.

Sponsor a student.

Your club can make a difference by sponsoring a teen at a Key Leader weekend. High school students ages 14 to 18 can take part. By covering the weekend fee, you can inspire a student to achieve his or her personal best through service leadership. The next Key Leader for the La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. District is May 4-6, 2012 at the Lakeshore Methodist Assembly Camp & Retreat Center, 1458 Pilot Knob Rd, Eva, TN 38333

You can register online by going to [http://www.key-leader.org](http://www.key-leader.org)

KEY CLUB

By: Glenn Borne, La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. Key Club District Administrator

LA MISS TENN KEY CLUB NEW OFFICER TRAINING

On March 23rd and 24th Key Club new officer training was presented in Baton Rouge. Over 150 Key Clubbers and 45 Key Club Advisors attending training in Baton Rouge which will help our leadership prepare for the new year. The training was targeted toward education of the officers for the new Key Club year. Our Key Club Board used the Candy Land theme to educate the officers about their duties as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasury of their Key Club. The Ballroom decorations were very well done by the Board. This was a trial run for our District Convention which is only a few weeks away. In addition to Key Club training the District had Advisor training presented by Cindy Johnson and Anthony Simmons. This was presented to include new and more experienced. A big “Thank You” goes out to Cindy and Anthony from me for their efforts. It is important we keep our Advisors educated in the new and improved techniques of Key Club. I am looking forward to seeing all of the Key Clubbers and Advisors at District Convention in April in Baton Rouge.
2ND ANNUAL TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
JUNE 27-30, 2012, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

The 2012 Training and Leadership Conference (TLC) will be held June 27-June 30, 2012, in New Orleans, LA. This conference will be held concurrently with the Kiwanis International Convention and the Circle K International Convention. By registering for the Aktion Club TLC, you will enjoy not only the programming and events scheduled for Aktion Club, but also some of the events, speakers and special programming offered by both conventions.

Invitees will experience fun, learning and fellowship!
• Informative workshops for club leadership and personal development
• Entertainment and fellowship
• A Service Fair and service project with the Alumni Association

Make your plans early
Early bird registration fee is $95; lodging prices vary, based on your hotel reservation. Information about the Aktion Club Training and Leadership Conference will be updated as it becomes available. Check this website occasionally for the latest news and details.

Learn more
For the following TLC General Information go to: www.aktionclub.org/resources/Eventsandconventions/conference
There you will find Hotel Information (It is suggested that members stay in the hotels designated for their districts), Travel Plans, Learn about New Orleans, Scheduling, Kiwanis and Aktion Schedules, Registration, Service Fair Invitation, Confirmation Packet, TLC Speakers and Facilitators, Medical Release Form and Code of Conduct

Direct conference questions to:
Kiwanis International, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268
Phone: 1-800-549-2647 ext. 411 (U.S. and Canada), or +1-317-875-8755, ext. 411 (worldwide)
Fax: 1-317-879-0204 E-mail: memberservices@kiwanis.org

WHAT SHOULD BUILDERS CLUB BE DOING IN THE MONTH OF APRIL?

• Election of new club officers. Your club should stage elections to select the new club officers, if applicable. Officers must be elected no later than September 30.
• Watch for Builders Club magazines. Builders Club magazines are mailed to the Builders Club faculty advisor at the school address twice annually. Faculty advisors should give a magazine to each Builders Club member.
• Submit contest entry forms and reports. The Builders Club Annual Achievement Report should also be submitted to Kiwanis International by May 1.
  Builders Club officers should be elected in time to take office on October 1 of each year. The timing of the elections depends on the availability of training and the club’s schedule. The earlier the officers are in place, the sooner the club can begin planning.
  Here’s a recommended procedure that may be modified to meet the needs of the individual Builders Club. Introduce these steps at any three consecutive meetings, ideally beginning in September.
First:
• Announce elections for the upcoming school year.
• Explain responsibilities for each office or conduct a training session of the duties of club officers. (Refer to Officer and Committee information at www.buildersclub.org for more information on officer positions and responsibilities)
• Encourage nominations/volunteers for each club position.
Second:
• Allow candidates for each office to present his/her “platform” and to “campaign.”
Third:
• Conduct elections by secret ballot or show of hands. Participants should not see votes cast.
• Share election results with your sponsoring Kiwanis club and school/site administration.
• After elections, general and job specific training is needed. For complete training curriculum, officer guides and PowerPoint, go to STEP 6: Make sure SLP club officers receive proper training at www.kiwanisone.org/advisor.
Hello Kiwanians,

This has been a busy month for the Region I Kiwanians. We just finished our 2011-2012 Mid-Year Conference in Martin, Tenn. It was a huge success and the folks in the Martin club did a great job.

I was especially impressed with Bascom Allen’s SLP workshop where he presented an excellent program on my favorite Kiwanis activities...K-Kids, Terrific Kids, and BUGS. K-Kids is an easy way to get youth involved in service to their community and learn leadership skills along the way. There are over 33,000 elementary school kids and 1,100 K-Kids Clubs in 8 countries. It is one of the fastest growing Kiwanis programs.

LMT Kiwanians are missing a great opportunity by not getting with our younger students. K-Kids are the first step to assure growth in our Builders, Key, and Circle K Clubs. Do you realize that we have 140 Kiwanis Clubs in the LMT District, but we have only 26 K-Kids Clubs. There are only 2 in Mississippi, 4 in West Tennessee, and the rest are in Louisiana. Since Katrina the number in Louisiana remains a mystery. This morning our Kiwanis club had their annual K-Kids speeches presented to the membership. I cannot imagine not having our K-Kids...what a joy it is to be a Kiwanian and watch these kids grow.

K-KIDS SHOEBOX FLOAT CONTEST

In many countries, babies sometimes get infected with tetanus when they’re born. That’s because their families don’t have the vaccines or health education that prevent the disease. So Kiwanis and UNICEF have teamed up for The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus. K-Kids are part of the effort. For example, you can support the campaign through this year’s Shoebox Float Contest. Create a shoebox float related to The Eliminate Project. For contest information go to www.kiwaniskids.org

Here are some themes and ideas you can use.

PROTECT THE CONNECTION-Tetanus hurts. Mothers can’t even touch their babies to comfort them.
CREATE A TOUCHING MOMENT-Show what a mother’s touch means to babies--and to you!
JOIN THE RESPONSE TEAM-Thanks to The Eliminate Project, K-Kids are helping Kiwanis respond to the needs of families around the world.
HONORING HEROIC HEARTS-When you help save and protect lives, you’re a hero. Doesn’t that make you proud?

GERMANTOWN K-KIDS WORK ON SHOEBOX FLOATS

Youth deserve the best Kiwanis has to offer. This includes the relationship and interaction between youth impacted by Service Leadership Programs and those adults who so generously give of themselves to assure the success of Kiwanis leadership development.
GOT AN OLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? KIWANIS WANTS YOU TO DONATE IT

Matthew Albright, Staff Writer, Houma Today
Published: Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 6:01 a.m.  Last Modified: Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 11:08 p.m.

The Kiwanis Club of Houma has launched a program to funnel used and donated musical instruments back into public-school music programs.

The club kicked off its “Play it Again” program Saturday during the parish honor band concert by donating the first cache of 10 instruments to Terrebonne Parish schools Superintendent Philip Martin.

“We haven’t even started working on publicity and we’ve already started receiving instruments,” said Larry Frederick, program chairman. “The support from the community is what’s going to make this thing run.”

The club is seeking trumpets, flutes, saxophones, clarinets and trombones. It will have the instruments refurbished and give them to the Terrebonne school system.

“They will be used by many students year after year,” Frederick said. “Instruments will be loaned out to students who would not be able to pursue music education because of the high cost.”

Instruments can be donated to Fabregas Music, 7821 Main St. in Houma. For information or to schedule an instrument pickup, call 860-5757 or email rosievi1027@gmail.com.

Donations will also be accepted during a free concert of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, scheduled for 3 p.m. March 18 at Southdown Plantation in Houma.

The value of each donated instrument counts as a tax deduction. Local band directors say the instruments will help for cash-strapped schools and their students.

“When we first met with the students, many were excited about the instruments and joining band,” said Eric Zelasko, band director at Mulberry Elementary in Houma. “But many of them don’t join because their families can’t afford the instrument.”

Research suggests that students who participate in music classes often perform better in other academic pursuits, Martin said.

“There’s evidence, and I am convinced, that student participation in instrumental music has many other significant benefits,” Martin said. “Allowing students who otherwise might not be able to participate will provide a valuable service.”

While the club has partnered with local businesses and music stores, it’s also looking for the public to get involved.

When many band students graduate from high school, for example, their instruments sit unused. Instead of gathering dust, organizers say those instruments could help a new generation of budding musicians.

“Your old musical instruments could change the lives of many students,” said Rosie Vassallo, who is helping with the project.

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2012 DISTRICT CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN THE “TASTIEST TOWN”

Southern Living names Lafayette, Louisiana, the "Tastiest Town in the South," in its April 2012 issue, on newsstands March 23. Southern Living editors chose the Top 10 "Tastiest Towns in the South" based on the following criteria:

* Food as a cultural identity: The unique food or ethnicity that defines a particular Southern region.
* Growth of a culinary-minded community: The influence the culinary industry has on the community and tourism.
* Diverse cuisine at a variety of price points: Accessibility to hearty, flavorful meals at any budget.
* Local, sustainable food practices: The focus on sourcing products from local purveyors to geographically define where each meal comes from.
* Hot chefs on the rise: The influence of the area's culinary talent in the media and pop culture.
* Abundance of buzz-worthy food events: The number of festivals in the area that celebrate food and drink.
LSU Kiwanis Club Donates AED

By: Blaine Grimes, Lt. Governor Division 8A

The LSU Kiwanis Club along with the Christian Life High Key Club raised funds to purchase and AED for the Christian Life Academy High School.
Standing left to right: Brian Ainsworth and Dr. Olin Dart with the LSU Kiwanis, Dr. Melilli (CLA Founder), Blaine Grimes, Peter Barnes (CLA Head Master) and LSU Kiwanis Members Richard Barbalace, Steve Parker (Club President) and BeBo Wilkes. Standing are Key Club members and Faculty Advisor, Peggy Viger (standing above Melilli).

TUPELOS KIWANIS CUB IS MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO SPECIAL NEEDS PARK

The Tupelo Kiwanis Club was a major contributor to this Tupelo High School Senior project and got naming rights. The Park is located in front of City Hall in downtown Tupelo.

GERMANTOWN K-KIDS PRESENT WINNING SPEECHES

By: Bill Austin, Germantown Kiwanis Club

At the regular weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Germantown the K Kids from Germantown Elementary School presented their winning speeches. The subject of their speech was, "How Can One K Kid's Kindness Make A Difference in the World". They explained how they raised $1,500 for the ELIMINATE Project (maternal/Neonatal tetanus) by Trick or Treating and over $800 for "Chicks for Change", a project to raise money for food for kids in Ethiopia and how they support the local animal shelter. Adults pictured are faculty advisors Cecily Jordan, Lindsey Luzar, Nicci Feathers and Don Eyer Kiwanis Advisor. K Kids pictured are (in no particular order) Brady Bush, Katie Hettinger, Decaria and Devonia Monroe, Jenna Kemp, Carly Catanzaro, Fall Johnson and Owen Ross. The K Kids at Germantown Elementary are a Youth Club of Elementary aged students, "Young Leaders Helping Others", sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Germantown.

SOUTH BATON ROUGE KIWANIS CLUB

DOWNTOWN KIWANIS FISHING COMMITTEE STARTS NEW SEASON OF TEACH A KID TO FISH

Story By: Gary Graham, Baton Rouge Downtown Kiwanis Club

Downtown Kiwanis kicked off its new season of the award winning Teach a Kid to Fish with the Boys & Girls Club kids this on March 17th out at Waddill Wildlife Center in Baton Rouge. The weather couldn’t have been any nicer. Arriving early to rig out the rods and reels were Committee Chair Freddie Martin and wife Rose Anne, President Matt Yates, Chris Tabor and husband Joe, Gary Graham, Howard Bolton, Auttis Mullins, Frank O’Quinn and Brian Parker. The rods and reels were finished hook, line and sinker (plus a float), the hats stacked and the pens at the ready to register the kids and issue them their rod and reel. Twenty-six eager kids arrived shortly and the fun began. The nametags written, hats perched on tops of heads and the rod and reel admired as they waited for instruction. Brian Parker took the task like a fish to water and the kids were soon on their way to hook the big one. Chris

and Joe Tabor filled in for the late Jay Hogue in recording the catches. Alas the day was not a great one this time with only 5 caught. But that didn’t discourage the kids at all. One young lady who didn’t catch anything captured our hearts as she enthusiastically broke the big worms in two (or three) and helped her friends get them on the hook. The morning flew by quickly and before long it was time for lunch. The kids cleaned up and lined up for a meal of hot dogs (with all the fixins’, chips, chips, cookies and a drink. They were a hungry bunch after a hard day of fishing and came back for seconds and even thirds in a few cases. Chris then awarded the lucky few who did catch something their prizes with the young lady mentioned above also winning for being a great sport. The serving table was soon cleaned and the equipment packed away for the next event which will be April 21 with the kids from Big Buddy.
HAMMOND KIWANIS CLUB EMBRACES “BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM”

By: Vic and Judy Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

Members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club eagerly embraced the Blessings in a Backpack program initiated at a local school last fall. Through this special effort, the club is helping to supplement the nutritional needs of students on weekends.

The club's decision to undertake this project came in response to a stated need by the school's principal Mrs. Glenda O'Banion. She explained to club members visiting the school last fall that, unfortunately, many of the K-Second Grade pupils at the school have little or nothing to eat over the weekend. For these youngsters, their main source of nutrition is the breakfast and lunch they receive at school on weekdays.

Kiwanians began their personal involvement in the program with an initial drive to stockpile needed food items for the backpacks. Three groups competed with each other to see which one could accumulate the most food.

During this drive, Kiwanis member donated enough food items to fill the bed of two pickup trucks. Next, the club purchased 45 backpacks to accommodate the project.

After learning that members of Kappa Delta Phi education honor sorority at Southeastern Louisiana University had already started a backpack program at the school, the Hammond Kiwanis Club decided to partner with this group. With the infusion of the Kiwanis backpacks and abundance of food items, approximately 65 filled backpacks are now being made available for the school's youngsters.

With widespread publicity about Blessings in a Backpack, a number of individuals and groups in the community reached out to Hammond Kiwanians and volunteered to help with donations of food and cash. An especially rewarding experience in connection with the backpack program was the participation of pre-kindergarten pupils at University Montessori School.

Under the leadership of their director, these tiny tots began bringing food items to school for use by the Kiwanis backpack program. When they have accumulated a large amount of food items members of the Kiwanis Club collect the donated items and add them to their supplies. The school's teachers are enthused about the effort because it is teaching the children about caring and sharing.

Individuals have sent money to the Kiwanis Club for use in purchasing food for the backpacks. One group donated books that can be added to the weekend backpacks. Some businesses have asked if they could make contributions to the effort.

Hammond Kiwanis Club Community Services Chairman Judy Couvillion commented on the program, "this has just been overwhelming! The Blessings in a Backpack program fits right in with Kiwanis’s emphasis on helping youth in many and varied ways. Not only is it rewarding to know that you are putting food in the stomach of a child who otherwise would be hungry, it is equally gratifying to see the extent to which the community has sought to become involved in this most worthwhile effort."

On Thursday afternoons, Hammond Kiwanians and students from Kappa Delta Phi meet at the school and load the backpacks. Each pack receives 10 food items, which means that about 650 items are used each week. Foods put into the packs include breakfast foods and drinks, a protein source, pudding, apple sauce, Ramen...
noodles or other pasta entrees, snacks, and cheese crackers. The club also places children's books in the backpacks to encourage the pupils to get their parents to read the books with them. The students return the backpacks on Monday and they are held until it is time to pack them once again on the next Thursday.

Kiwanians made the backpacks even more special on the last Thursday before the Christmas holidays. The club purchased small gifts for the students and these were added to the packs which included extra treats.

Kiwanian Arlene Anzalone, who is very active in the program, observed, "We realize that the food we provide is not a full menu for the entire weekend. However, the food that we give the students can mean the difference between being hungry and have at least something to eat. We feel good about the program and feedback from teachers and students has convinced us that the Blessings in a Backpack program is truly fulfilling a need."

The program has proved to be a "blessing" for the students who are the beneficiaries of the food being given them and an equal "blessing" to all who have had their lives enriched by knowing that they are part of a unique effort that seeks to serve a very special, unique community need.

**Kiwanis Club of Germantown makes $2,000 donation**

In keeping with the theme of "Serving the Children of the World", the Kiwanis Club of Germantown made a $2,000 donation to the Madonna Learning Center in Germantown. Madonna is home to the Aktion Club of Germantown, a Kiwanis Club for adults living with disabilities sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Germantown and a Terrific Kids program that recognizes academic achievement, character development and citizenship in students, also sponsored by the Germantown Kiwanis Club.

**Distinguished President's Award presented to Elizabeth Wojcik**

By: Bill Austin, Germantown Kiwanis Club

Elizabeth Wojcik, Immediate Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Germantown receives the Distinguished President's Award from Kiwanis International for 2010-2011. Presenting the award is current club President Claude Vinson.

**Dates to Remember**

April 19-20: Key Club District Convention, Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, La.
April 21: Kiwanis One Day
May: Membership Month
August 2-5, 2012: District Convention * Lafayette, La. * Hilton Hotel

Happy Easter
2012 Kiwanis International President, Alan Penn, to host “Taste of New Orleans Golf Outing” to Support the Eliminate Project at the International Convention

The tournament will be held on Monday, June 25, 2012 with a ‘Shotgun Start” at 9:00 am at the Lakewood Golf Course. You can get more information on Lakewood Golf Course at www.lakewoodgolf.com. The cost per player is $85.00. The club will have rental availability and transportation will be provided from the Headquarters Hotel to and from the golf course.

There will be lots of prizes and a jambalaya dinner provided by the Cortana Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge.

President Penn is hoping that every club can send or get one team to play! All proceeds are to go to Eliminate Project in President Penn’s name!

Simply register by deadline date of June 1, 2012 by sending in your team information and check or money order to:
Joe Pratt, New Orleans Convention Chair
2009 N. Woodlawn Ave.
Metairie, LA 70001

Taste of New Orleans Golf Outing to Support the Eliminate Project
Hosted by Alan Penn, 2011-12 President of Kiwanis International

When: Monday, June 25, 2012
Where: Lakewood Golf Course - www.Lakewoodgolf.com
Cost: $85 per Player (club rental available)
Time: 9:00 A.M. Shotgun Start
Registration Deadline: June 1, 2012
Send Check or Money order to:
Joe Pratt, 2009 N. Woodlawn Ave., Metairie, LA 70001
Name of Players on Team (individual players will be assigned a team)

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Team contact information:
Name of Team Captain: 
Address: 
City: St: Z: 
Day Phone: Cell: 
Email: 

Happy Mother’ Day!
The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus is proud to introduce the Mother’s Day/International Women’s Day Zeller Fellowship. This opportunity is limited to March 1- June 15. Through the Zeller Fellowship Program, a gift of US$1,250 saves or protects more than 690 lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Recipients receive a Zeller Fellowship medallion, a special edition Mother’s Day lapel pin, a personalized certificate and postcard informing the honoree that a gift has been made in his/her name.

This year, honor mothers by saving mothers. For more information, please visit the Mother’s Day page on The Eliminate Project website at www.TheEliminateProject.org/MothersDay