

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2017

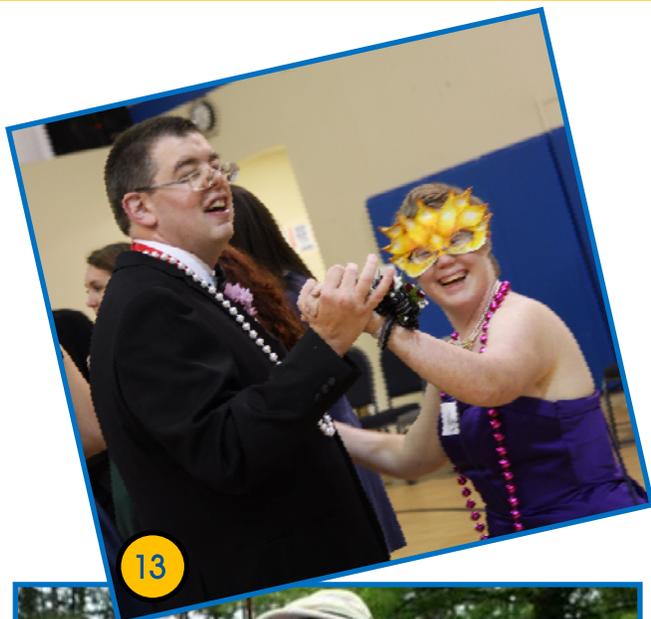
# Kiwanis®

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



**Celebrating 30 Years of Women in Kiwanis  
with International President Jane Erickson**

*Improving the world one child and one community at a time.*



## ON THE COVER:

Governor Fred Pitts welcomes International President Jane Erickson to the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District to celebrate 30 years of women in Kiwanis. *See more on Pages 6-7.*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### DISTRICT NEWS

- 3 Updates from Governor Fred Pitts
- 4 Message from the Immediate Past Governor
- 5 Greetings from the Governor-Elect
- 6-7 Celebrating 30 Years of Women in Kiwanis
- 8 International President Joins District Board Meeting
- 8 Special Thanks to the WIK-30 Committee
- 9 2015-2016 District Award Winners

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10 Eliminate Maternal Neonatal Tetanus
- 11 Aspire to Inspire: That's the T.I.C.K.E.T.
- 11 Getting Involved with the Foundation
- 12 Layperson of the Year Recognition
- 12 Steps for Starting up K-Kids

### KEY CLUB NEWS

- 13-14 St. Tammany Key Clubs Host Mardi Gras Ball . . .
- 15 Ecole Classique Rolls with the Krewe of Barkus
- 15 News from the Key Club Governor

### CLUB NEWS

- 16-17 Alexandria Lures Terrific Kids with Outdoor Fun
- 17 Kenner-North Knows Kids Need Kiwanis!
- 18 East St. Mary Hosts 5th Successful Trivia Night
- 19 Algiers Sponsors Birthday Bingo
- 20 Cortana Celebrates Bringing up Grades with Students
- 21 The Oaks Club Parties with BUGS!
- 22 Alexandria: Big Numbers = Big Results!
- 23-24 Updates from Martin Kiwanis
- 25 New Orleans & Div. 4B Paint with a Purpose
- 26 Pineville: Flippin' Pancakes
- 26 Southern Hills Elementary K-Kids: Caps for Kids
- 27 South Baton Rouge: Our Community Heroes!
- 27 Clerk of Court Visits West Jefferson

### WHAT'S HAPPENING ON FACEBOOK

- 28 Paris-Lakeway Helps "Helping Hand"
- 28 Amory's Backpack Program is Going Strong
- 29 Corinth Hosts Father-Daughter Ball
- 30 Pascagoula: Reading Around the World
- 31 Lafayette Raises Money For New School Playground
- 31 Picayune Hosts Special Olympics Event
- 32 Dawn Busters Serves the Community Right!
- 33 Moisant Reaches Out
- 33 Pontchartrain Gives Bikes for Books
- 34 Kiwanis of LSU Helps with Special Olympics
- 34 Kenner North & K-Kids Make Comfort Dolls
- 35 Shreveport Helps Give Coats to Kids
- 35 Tupelo's Governor Fred Pitts Rings the Bell

### UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- 35 International Convention
- 36 District Convention

## Updates from Governor Fred Pitts

*By R. Fred Pitts, Governor*



By the time, you are reading this we will have completed all seven of our regional meetings of which Past Governor Gary and myself have attended. I cannot speak for Gary but my head is full and spinning of the many great ideas and service our clubs are doing for the kids - #kidsneedkiwanis.

At the same time, I am very concerned with respect to the effort and desire of a lot of our clubs to grow. Past Governor Gary Graham is our Formula Chair, and I believe as a district we need more than ever to get behind Gary's leadership, and follow the Formula plan. One person cannot do this alone.

As many of you have heard myself and Gary say, "growing our membership solves most of the problems in our clubs."

*Make a commitment to duplicate yourself once a year.* That is not too much to ask if you are proud to be a Kiwanian.

Seven new clubs in LAMSTN District by September 31, 2017 - that's our goal! This will mean an additional 175

new Kiwanians for LAMSTN, and new clubs historically grow faster than established clubs. We must open at least seven new clubs every year to continue to provide service to the kids.

The LAMSTN District needs Lieutenant Governor's for every division. Our weakest divisions have not had a LG in years. We need a Governor Elect for our district. I call on all our past district officers to get busy and help recruit our leaders for 2017-2018. Our district officers, past and current, should continually be on the lookout for future leaders for LAMSTN. Most of us had to be asked to be a Kiwanian, as well as being asked to be a leader in our district.

Six months into my year as your Governor and where has the time gone? Carol and I have been welcomed into a lot of your clubs, as well as, Regionals, and have enjoyed meeting

great Kiwanians. Thank you, thank you! I feel the excitement is in the air and I look forward to seeing not only great service projects being done, but new Kiwanians helping to provide this service.

LET'S HAVE A LUAU AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION IN NATCHEZ ON JUNE 23-25<sup>TH</sup>. You will not want to miss this party, with pig and all the trimmings. PLUS, awesome professional entertainment you must see, compliments of Tupelo Kiwanis Club. Costumes optional but encouraged! Guys, this is your chance to wear those ugly Hawaiian print shirts in the back of your closet. May even be a judging contest for ugliest print.

***Stay tuned for more information very soon on the District Convention in Natchez!***



*Kiwanians from Region I discussed ideas about increasing club awareness and membership at the Mid-Year Regional, led by Past Governor Gary Graham, on March 4 in Germantown, TN. Governor Fred Pitts visited each of the seven Mid-Year Regional meetings to discuss the importance of growing Kiwanis membership.*

## Message from the Immediate Past Governor

By Gary Graham, Immediate Past Governor



### “Uva Uvam Vivendo Vaira Fit”

I don't know how many of you ever read the Pulitzer Prize winning book for fiction “Lonesome Dove” or watched the TV series that first ran on back in 1989. If you've never seen the series and/or read the book I would recommend it highly. It tells the story of two retired Texas Rangers, Gus McCrae and Woodrow F. Call, and their cattle company. It is one of the best westerns I've ever seen. It also provides great insight into relations and life. The sign for their cattle company, Hat Creek Cattle Company, includes a Latin motto, “Uva Uvam Vivendo Varia Fit.” It is a Latin phrase, purportedly from the Roman poet Juvenal, that loosely translated means “A grape is changed by living with other grapes.” But figuratively can mean “We are changed by the lives around us.” That is Kiwanis. Whether we are the agents of change or the benefactors, Kiwanis changes lives. The world saw a change when Kiwanis was first created in 1915 and a few years later in 1919 when the membership bought the name from Allen Browne and made it a service organization. Times continued to change over the next 100 years and though some of the longtime members may not believe it's true, Kiwanis changed too. The service and fundraising events changed constantly to meet the changes society was experiencing. A

quantum change happened in 1987 when it was voted at the Kiwanis International Convention in Washington D.C. to accept women as equal partners in service.

Now 30 years later we face another challenge. We must continue to change if we are to continue the unparalleled record of service to children Kiwanis started over a century ago. Society has changed quickly in recent decades as had ways of communicating. Technology has made things better but it has also resulted in divides between the older generation of Kiwanians and the younger members we want to attract. Clubs not willing to change will slowly fade into a distant memory as the members die off and the wonderful and much needed service to children will just be history. You know the way it goes -- people sitting around talking and asking “Whatever happened to ...?” Remember “Uva Uvam Vivendo Varia Fit,” -- there will not be changes by Kiwanis to the lives of children around them and sadly no changes to those who have provided them.

Changing is not a new phenomenon but nevertheless it is a challenge to change. As Robert Cooper, Ph.D., a neuroscientist, points out -- our brains, while capable of being amazing, are often not our friends. He says our brains avoid change, magnify the negatives, play small, defer and lean away from the possibilities. Are we guilty of that approach when facing major challenges? Do we do it “the way we have always done it before?” Cooper notes, “Nothing can stay the same. The question becomes, in what direction are you going? You are either growing and rising or fading and falling—and nothing in between.” There are new solutions to old problems every-

where, but we must be willing to take the chance. Cooper shares this advice. He says, “It's not how busy you are or how fast you are moving. It's how effectively you are advancing in the right direction.” Where are we headed as an *organization*? Are we growing and rising? We must all answer these questions, measure results and “think different” as we face a future that doesn't resemble our past. Are we wise and courageous enough to grow? If not, we will fall, and *the children* will hold us accountable—as they should. No excuses. (*Italics are my changes from original terms used*).

The changes, whether big or small, that need to be made do not have to be made in a vacuum. Kiwanis International and LAMISSTENN have resources and individuals ready and willing to help your clubs. Just reach out. There are so many possibilities to strengthen, revitalize and renew your club. And if you find potential members who would like to be a part of your service but simply cannot join because of time, costs, or other factors you can sponsor a new one for them. Surveys have shown that young people want to serve. However, for them the service must be relevant and they are not necessarily that enamored with other aspects of meetings unless it is a part of direct service. We need them so we must be willing to change so that we can help them become the future of Kiwanis. We must let their lives change ours so we can change theirs. The future of your club, our District and Kiwanis International depends on it. “Uva Uvam Vivendo Varia Fit,” so we can improve the world one child and one community at a time.

## Greetings from the Governor-Elect

*By Otha Britton, Governor-Elect*



Much has happened in the district during the last three months. I'm sure Governor Fred and others will inform you about many of them, but let me mention just a few. First, the LaMiss-Tenn Board met near the New Orleans airport at the end of January in order to allow the board members to attend the women's conference at which Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson was a special guest. Unfortunately, I could not attend that meeting, nor the conference, due to the fact that President-Elect Jim Rochford and the Kiwanis International leadership scheduled the final part of our governor elect training for the same weekend. There was a good reason for scheduling the training at that time, however, and that was to have it correspond with the scheduled training of the SLP advisors. We governor elects really enjoyed spending time with our SLP advisors and we definitely learned much about

the needs of those advisors and the SLP programs.

Four additional Kiwanis members from our district were trained in February on the Key Leader programs. There are now two newly-trained Kiwanians able to help Past Governor Linda Ramsey with the Key Leader North program, which has been offered for several years in Eva, Tennessee, on the banks of the Tennessee River. Key Leader South has not been offered for a few years, but Brenda Eccles now has two newly-trained Kiwanians who can assist her with getting that program back underway. Sponsorships are needed in both the north and south to pay the fees for the students attending these leadership training programs for our high school students, which include many Key Club members.

We have been working hard to get our lieutenant governor elects lined up so we can train them. The training will take place on April 21-22 in conjunction with the district board meeting. Although most have been confirmed, we still lack a few and time is running out to get them on board. Helping with the training in Baton Rouge will be Past Kiwanis International President Nettles Brown and "Eye of the Tiger" team member Kendra Skidmore from

the Kentucky-Tennessee district. Kendra was picked by President Jim Rochford as the person most appropriate to handle the training that Kiwanis International requires for the lieutenant governors. Both Kendra and Nettles are excellent choices, so I am confident that we will have top-notch training this year.

Please put the district convention on your calendar and plan to attend it if at all possible. This is a great time to not only meet other Kiwanians in the district, but it will be loaded with educational sessions to help you and your clubs grow and improve. The convention is June 23-25 in the beautiful river city of Natchez, Mississippi. We look forward to seeing you and others from your club there.

One more item: we need a candidate or candidates for governor elect for 2017-2018. One requirement to be a candidate is having served at least two years as a district trustee. If you have served at least two years as district trustee, then please consider running for this important office. As governor, you will have a tremendous opportunity to impact the lives of thousands of children!

## Celebrating 30 Years of Women in Kiwanis

By Catherine Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

It was a hot summer, that 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 1987. The place? The House of Delegates of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Kiwanis International Convention in Washington, DC. Amendment #2 was introduced with the objective of permitting women to join Kiwanis. This amendment had been placed on the ballot for the last 14 years, (since the 1973 convention), but failed every year. Would this year be any different? Debate and discussion ensued. There was an amendment to the amendment; more debate and discussion. When the dust finally settled, Delegates cast their vote and by a 2/3 majority, Amendment #2 passed. Yes, women could finally join the organization they had been a part of for decades as helpers and guests! Within the first six months, more than 3,000 women had joined!

Fast forward to January 28, 2017 – some 30 years later –The President of Lakeside Kiwanis Club Joe Pratt and the “WIK-30 Committee” hosted an event, celebrating *30 Years of Women in Kiwanis* at the New Orleans Airport Hilton. Kiwanians and guests numbering 265, represented 34 Kiwanis Clubs of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District. Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson and “First Gent” Gus, flew in for the event! Her Keynote speech was all about “Energizing the Dream” and provided inspiration for all Kiwanians to continue our mission of serving the children in our community. As a mother and



grandmother, President Jane pledged to continue to serve the children of the world through Kiwanis until every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved.

The evening’s event was tailored to honor women. Carole` Nungesser, Lt. Governor of Division 4A, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. A commemorative booklet (donated by Ditto’s printing/Sam Catalanotto of St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club) touted the club’s female members’ accomplishments for service as well as leadership roles. Each club was asked to choose a female member that was a “Most Valuable Woman.” The following honorees were given a plaque, presented with a single red rose, and a Presidential Bannerette from President Jane - Congratulations to: Cathy Simmons (New Orleans), Deidre Charlot (Pontchartrain), Donna Cafferata (Alexandria), Irene Buras (Algiers), Valerie Cicero (Dawn Busters), Karen Boudreaux & Dana Dixon (West Jefferson), Lydwina Hurst (Big Easy), Joan Marlborough (Houma),

Lauren Call (Lakeside), Margaret Hodges (Cortana) and Lou Oschmann (Crescent City Eye Openers).

Also honored were female Kiwanians serving 20+ years in Kiwanis. Certificates, red roses and bannerettes were given to Leigh Berry (29, Columbia), Ellen Murdock (29, Third District), Carole Nungesser (28, New Orleans), Patricia Canning (28, Baton Rouge), Sandy Anzelmo (25, Lakeside), Joan Fontaine (24, New Orleans), Kim Duplantier (24, St. Bernard-Arabi), Marjorie Green (24, Baton Rouge), Angelique Strother (23, Big Easy), Linda Leger (22, Algiers), Lydwina Hurst (21, Big Easy), Carolyn Marcantel (21, Southwest Contraband) and Clarissa Preston (20, South Baton Rouge). Congratulations!

Funds for the event were raised by the cost of dinner and selling ads for the commemorative booklet. After all expenses were paid, the net proceeds of \$900 will be donated to a Women’s Shelter in the local New Orleans community.

A big shout out to the WIK-30 Committee: Joe Pratt (and Sue!), Lauren Call, Judi Zimmermann, Bobbie Whiddon, Lenny Simmons, and Cathy Simmons. To all the clubs of the District – thank YOU for your support of this event.

Thirty years and going strong! Congratulations to ALL women who serve the Children of the World!

*Continued on page 7 . . .*

## Celebrating 30 Years of Women in Kiwanis

*By Catherine Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club*



Members of the South Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club attend the event.



Left to right: Past Int. President Nettles Brown, Int. President Jane Erickson and Past Governor Greg Beard



Ellen Murdock, member of the Third District Kiwanis Club, was recognized for her 29 year membership in Kiwanis by Int. President Jane Erickson.



Left to right: Past Governor John McCay, III and wife Susan, Governor Fred Pitts and wife Carol, and Immediate Past Governor Gary Graham and wife Jamie



Members of the Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club attend the event.



Lenny Simmons accompanies Jane Erickson and husband Gus around New Orleans.

## International President Joins District Board Meeting



On January 28, International President Jane Erickson joined the Louisiana Mississippi West Tennessee District Board of Trustees and Leadership Team board meeting before speaking at the Celebration of 30 Years of Women in Kiwanis later that evening. “It was an honor to have International President Jane Erickson meet with us,” said Immediate Past Governor Gray Graham on Facebook. The International President was present for four hours during the meeting, contributing many insightful ideas for the district and enjoying the company.

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## Special Thanks to the WIK-30 Committee

*By Eva Abate, Division 12 Lieutenant Governor*

On behalf of myself, Carolyn Marcantel and the Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club, we want to say THANK YOU. The Women in Kiwanis event celebrating 30 years of women in Kiwanis was something to remember for years to come. It was a wonderful evening of renewing friendships from throughout the District, making new friends, and presenting awards for those dedicated to Kiwanis and our mission. The program was well organized, the speakers were clear in their presentations and it was a privilege to hear the special presentation from our Kiwanis International President, Jane Erickson. Thanks for all the hard work making this a GREAT event!

## La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. District of Kiwanis International 2015-2016 Award Winners

### ANNUAL CLUB REPORT AWARDS

#### SINGLE SERVICE

**Winner:** Kiwanis Club of Northshore, Mandeville, La., Rick Johnson, President  
**Honorable Mention:** Kiwanis Club of the Oaks, Baton Rouge, La., Danny McConnell, President

#### MULTIPLE SERVICES

**Winner:** Kiwanis Club of Dawn Busters, Metairie, La., Anthony DiNatale, President  
**Honorable Mentions:** Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi, La., Mike Gorbaty, President  
 Kiwanis Club of Vicksburg, Miss., Katie Ferrell, President

#### DISTINGUISHED CLUBS

<u>Division</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
4B	Dawn Busters, Metairie, La.	Anthony DiNatale	Valerie Cicero
7	Lafayette, La.	William Friedmant	Thomas Long
8B	Cortana, Baton Rouge, La.	Sean McDonald	Margaret Hodges
11	Central Louisiana, Alexandria, La.	Robert Tillie	Dan Tillie
13	Northshore Mandeville, La.	Rick Johnson	Lori Pausina
14	Orange Grove, Gulfport, Miss.	Mike Craft	Howard Lock
14	Pascagoula, Miss.	Rogena Woods-Mitchell	Cavina Wells
15	Vicksburg, Miss.	Katie Ferrell	Charles McKinnie
17	St. Martinville, La.	George Choplin, Jr.	Melinda Mitchell

#### DISTINGUISHED KIWANIAN

<u>Division</u>	<u>Kiwanian &amp; Club</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Kiwanian &amp; Club</u>
1A	John Fry, Union City, Tenn.	14	Dennis Oliver, Gulfport, Miss.
4B	Michael Haffner, Dawn Busters, Metairie, La.	14	Lucky Langston, Orange Grove, Gulfport, Miss.
7	Billie Lis, Acadiana-Lafayette, La.	14	Barbara McCay, Orange Grove, Gulfport, Miss.
11	Mickey Parker, Winnfield, La.	15	Donna Osburn, Vicksburg, Miss.
13	Judy Couvillion, Hammond, La.	15	Tom Osburn, Vicksburg, Miss..

#### DISTINGUISHED SECRETARIES

*2015-2016 Jay R. Broussard Memorial Outstanding Club Secretary: Thomas M. Long, Kiwanis Club of Lafayette, La.*

<u>Division</u>	<u>Secretary &amp; Club</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Secretary &amp; Club</u>
4A	JudithAnne Zimmermann, Algiers, La.	8B	Margaret Hodges, Cortana, Baton Rouge, La.
4A	Catherine Simmons, New Orleans, La.	13	Lori Pausina, Northshore Mandeville, La.
4B	Valerie Cicero, Dawn Busters, Metairie, La.	14	Howard Lock, Orange Grove, Gulfport, Miss.
7	Thomas M. Long, Lafayette, La.		

#### GOVERNOR'S INTER-CLUB CONTEST

*The following clubs are being recognized for their outstanding efforts in Inter-Club Relations during the 2015-2016 Kiwanis Year.*

**GOVERNOR'S AWARD:** Recognizing the clubs that met the minimal requirements for this award and reported the most Inter-Club meetings.

**Diamond Section:** Dawn Busters, Metairie, La., 144 Inter-Club Mtgs. **Emerald Section:** Acadiana-Lafayette, La., 11 Inter-Club Mtgs.

**Ruby Section:** Kenner North, La., 54 Inter-Club Mtgs.

**Coral Section:** New Orleans, La., 17 Inter-Club Mtgs.

**DISTRICT INTER-CLUB AWARD:** Recognizing Kiwanis Clubs for their Outstanding efforts in Inter-Club Relations in 2015-2016.

<u>Div.</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Div.</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Div.</u>	<u>Club</u>
3	Waynesboro, Miss.	4B	Dawn Busters, Metairie, La.	9	Southern Hills, Shreveport, La.
4A	Algiers, La.	4B	Kenner North, La.	12	Lake Charles, La.
4A	New Orleans, La.	7	Acadiana-Lafayette, La.	13	Hammond, La.
4A	St. Bernard-Arabi, La.	8A	The Oaks, Baton Rouge, La.	13	Northshore, Mandeville, La.
4A	Third District, New Orleans, La.	8B	Cortana, Baton Rouge, La.		

NOTE: Criteria for 2016-2017 Awards can be found on the District Website: [www.lamisstenn.org](http://www.lamisstenn.org)



# ELIMINATE

## maternal/neonatal tetanus

*By Dennis Oliver, Project Eliminate Chair*

*Email: [dmokiwanis@aol.com](mailto:dmokiwanis@aol.com) • Phone: 228/343-5444*

### 2010:

Kiwanis agrees to raise 110 million to ELIMINATE TETANUS in the world.

1. 39 countries have babies dying every 9 minutes due to lack of vaccine.
2. \$1.80 saves or protects a mom and future babies.
3. International, District, Division, and Club coordinators are named.
4. The Kiwanis/UNICEF Partnership, fresh from the IDD Partnership, begins the journey!

### 2017:

1. 110 million has been raised in gifts and pledges (66 million in cash).
2. LAMSTN Key Club pledged \$100,000 in 5 years.
3. Our District has raised 1.9 million of its 2.3 million goal.
4. Babies are still dying every 15 minutes!
5. Of the 39 countries in 2010, only 18 remain at risk. 21 COUNTRIES ARE FREE FROM THIS HORRIBLE, UNNECESSARY DISEASE!

### So:

1. If your club has pledged, please have an active plan to complete your pledge.
2. If your club did not pledge or if your club has completed its pledge, I ask you today to keep an ELIMINATE plan active.
3. Consider ordering Walter Zeller Awards for Outstanding Members or President.

### Governor Fred's Challenge:

- If every Kiwanian in our district would be responsible for \$20.17 in 2017, we would raise \$85,000.
- \$20.17 saves 11 moms and all her future babies!
- This is an easy, doable way for each of us to help! Today I suggest you hug your children and grandchildren and thank God that all of us were born in the greatest country in the world, free from war, excellent health care and clean water!

### Then:

- I ask your help in every way possible to finish the promise we made in 2010 to 61 million moms and their precious babies.
- IT'S 'THE RIGHT' THING TO DO!

*Your \$1.80 saves a baby who  
one day may save thousands of others!*



## Aspire to Inspire: That's the T.I.C.K.E.T.

*By Jeems White, III, Past Governor*

*What is a ticket?*

It is usually a small piece of paper you can hold in your hand. Tickets are usually printed on heavy card stock and entitle the holder to something. It may be a pancake breakfast, admission to an event or a chance for prizes in a raffle drawing. [Our district Foundation sells tickets for gift basket raffles to support scholarships and childrens' projects around LaMissTenn.]

There are other kinds of tickets such as the notorious traffic ticket which is technically a citation for wrong-doing. There is the political ticket, a group of people running for public office. There is the common admission ticket to an event. "That's the ticket" is a vernacular expression meaning you are doing something right.

*But what is a Kiwanis T.I.C.K.E.T.?*

Every spring our Kiwanis club sells



raffle tickets for our major fundraiser, a crawfish boil with big raffle prizes for the winners. Besides raising money we have a lot of fun . . . which is important for Kiwanis activities (and we eat a lot of crawfish!). We raise money to support our club's programs for children during the year. Most Kiwanis clubs have various fundraisers which frequently involve selling tickets for some event or other.

A Kiwanis "T.I.C.K.E.T." is more significant than just a piece of paper entitling the holder to something. It is

more than what is printed on the surface of the paper. It is more than just the money raised through its sale. The Kiwanis T.I.C.K.E.T is also symbolic of our Defining Statement. We all know the mantra . . . "improving the world, one child . . . etc." That's what we do. That's the T.I.C.K.E.T.

Terrific Kids, Bringing Up Grades, K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Clubs, CKI, reading programs and all the many ways Kiwanis works to fulfill our defining statement are directed at encouraging children to succeed. We encourage them to have dreams and build on successes. We inspire them to become responsible adults and to be service leaders.

**TO INSPIRE  
CHILDREN, KIWANIS  
ENCOURAGES THEM.**

That's the T.I.C.K.E.T.

## Getting Involved with the Foundation

*By Barbara Johnson, District Foundation Board of Trustees Nominations Chair*

Greetings Fellow Kiwanians!

Your District Foundation will have three open board positions, each position serving a three-year term beginning October 1, 2017. As you know, your foundation board serves as the "fund-raising arm" of the La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. Kiwanis District and is charged with finding financial ways to support scholarships and leadership training of the Service Leadership Programs, and meaningful community service projects of the member Kiwanis clubs.



Please consider continuing the great work your foundation board does by submitting an application to fill a position to [barbara@uwpbr.org](mailto:barbara@uwpbr.org) or to [districtoffice@lamisstenn.org](mailto:districtoffice@lamisstenn.org).

The Board Member Application can be found on the District Web Site ([www.lamisstenn.org](http://www.lamisstenn.org)) under the LaMiss-Tenn Foundation Tab, on the Foundation Board of Directors page, or directly from the Board Member Application Page. All applications must be received by June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be eligible for the election in Natchez, Miss.

Yours in Service,

*Barbara Johnson*

## Layperson of the Year Recognition

*By Court Crow, Human & Spiritual Values District Chair*

I hope your clubs have begun to see where the Human and Spiritual Values of Kiwanis help to make us different from other purely service or social organizations in our communities. Many of our fellow Kiwanians actually see their Kiwanis experience as one of their personal ministries. Giving back to their communities is simply the spiritual collateral they put back into the communities to make them a better place to live and raise their families.

Start planning now to recognize a Layperson of the Year (yes, Layman of the Year) for the spiritual role models they are in the community. This person can be a Kiwanian but certainly doesn't have to be. Identify your recipient for his or her contributions to your community through efforts of a "human and spiritual values" nature. In other



words, do you see someone making your community better outside their individual church.

I'm not going to give an example because I don't want to limit your imagination. "Think outside the box." Or in this case, "Think outside the church." Is your recipient touching lives ... maybe specifically the lives of children, but don't limit yourselves there, either.

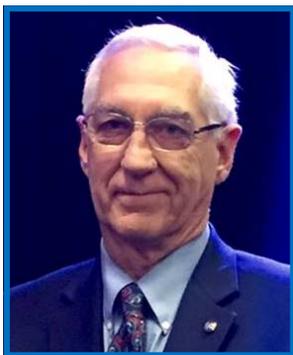
Send your nominations to Court Crow, District Chair, PO Box 52269, Shreveport, Louisiana 71135-2269 or [crow52269@aol.com](mailto:crow52269@aol.com). The review committee will need a cover letter from the Kiwanis Club nominating the person and whatever documentation you can include (other letters of endorsement or recommendation, news articles, etc.)

The District will recognize the Layperson of the Year at the District Convention this summer in Natchez, Ms., June 23 thru 25. I hope we have several recommendations from clubs throughout the District.

Let me remind each of you to pray for our local, state and national leaders. Our country is facing a lot of challenges right now.

## Steps for Starting up K-Kids

*By Donald K. Eye, District K-Kids Chairman*



If advisors have not updated their K-Kids information, now is a good time. The District Chairman's hardest job is trying to figure out who is the advisor for both the Kiwanis clubs and the schools. If you are getting your reports in on time and updating the infor-

mation it is very helpful for your district and the folks at international.

We are about to start a new K-Kids program at a school we have been eyeing for several years. This summer we heard that a new principal was in town. **FIRST STEP...**We immediately contacted the new principal and introduced ourselves. We explained our mission and told her we would let her get settled into her new position and we would meet with her after the Christmas holidays. **SECOND STEP...**We followed through with our promise, but not until we surveyed parents we knew had children in that school.

**THIRD...**We went prepared and sold our product.

We are now a week away from our first K-Kids and Terrific Kids meeting. The information and advice in the KI online sources is excellent. It made us more comfortable in assuring we did not leave any important holes unfilled. I have 15 years of experience with K-Kids and 20 with Terrific Kids. Every time we start a new club we share our brand. Kids are great!

Kids are our future and we need to be aggressive in letting them experience Kiwanis. "Kids Need Kiwanis!" Go to your K-Kids videos and renew your commitment.

[WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG](http://WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG)

## St. Tammany Key Clubs Host Mardi Gras Ball with the Special Needs Community!

*By Dan Johnson, Division 13 Lieutenant Governor*



Good food, music, and carnival celebrations did not end on Fat Tuesday for the local special needs community, thanks to the **St. Tammany Parish Key Clubs** who hosted a Mardi Gras Ball on March 4 to honor STARC of Mandeville and the AKtion Club of Greater Covington through the Arc of Greater New Orleans Covington location.

Key Club is a global high school service organization, sponsored by the local Kiwanis Clubs and organized by geographical divisions, that focuses on three domains: discovering the heart to serve, answering the call to lead, and summoning the courage to engage.

Anna Kate Broussard, a junior at St. Scholastica Academy in Covington, is the elected Lieutenant Governor of St. Tammany's Key Club Division 13B. She met with the presidents of other local Key Clubs and started brainstorming for a service project that they could do together that would involve the fairly new AKtion club. The AK-

tion club is a service organization club run by special needs individuals in the community and also sponsored by a Kiwanis Club. At the meeting, one of the Key Club presidents suggested creating an event for the disabled that would mirror the senior citizen prom event hosted annually at a nursing home by the Key Club at St. Scholastica Academy. The idea was overwhelmingly embraced as many of Key Clubbers' lives have been influenced by someone with a disability. Thus, a Mardi Gras Ball was initiated to honor them in this fun way.

Through the model of "discovering our hearts to serve," the other Key Club presidents and I began to "answer the call to lead" said Broussard. Committees were formed to plan publicity, decorations, menu, and, of course, entertainment!

"We started by asking our local Kiwanians to help with publicity, contacting businesses for donations, and simply being present at the event," Broussard said. Dozens of posters were printed and donors were contacted. Community partners came forward for the event such as the YMCA, Chick-Fil-A, Pizza Hut and Kiwanians who donated many varieties of food items. Gulf Coast Bank of Covington hosted a dress drive to collect prom gowns, then delivered them to the Arc for members who were in need. St. Scholastica Academy's Art Club helped create a decorative backdrop. With the help of the Kiwanians, a DJ was booked who practically donated time to give the event an atmosphere of fun. During the event Key Clubbers took pictures, served food, and, most importantly, danced with guests. There

*Continued on page 13 . . .*



## Mardi Gras Ball Continued

*By Dan Johnson, Division 13 Lieutenant Governor*

was even a dance off where the winners were crowned as the royal court of the Mardi Gras Ball.

Anna Kate shared this personal tribute about one of her special needs friends: “During the ball, Helen, one of the honored guests, pulled me aside and said, “I cannot thank you enough for organizing this for me and my Down syndrome friends. We are having the time of our lives and it really means a lot to us that y’all wanted to do this with us.” Helen was exactly right. We did this event with them, not for them. As a Key Clubber we are taught to "serve with" and not "for." We were right there next to our guests, living it up on the dance floor. I am so grateful to Key Club and Kiwanis International for teaching me these critical skills of discovering my heart to serve, answering the call to lead, and summoning the courage to engage. Without following those three steps, this event never could have impacted Helen and so many other people - including all of us Key Clubbers.”

Broussard went on to say “What Helen said taught me that through the ball and other Key Club projects, my time and my presence can be worth so much. While creating gardens, painting, and cleaning up trash are all important and worthy causes, sometimes the gift of sharing ourselves is the greatest difference we can make for others.”

For more information about Kiwanis and KEY Club you can contact Dan Johnson at 985-893-4123 or [dan@danjohnsoncpa.com](mailto:dan@danjohnsoncpa.com).



## Ecole Classique Rolls with the Krewe of Barkus

*By Taylor Weintritt, Ecole Classique High School Key Club President*



Many clubs dedicate their time to their school, community, and the less fortunate. **The Ecole Classique Key Club** goes the extra mile to make sure to include one very important group - our furry friends! On Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, in the city of New Orleans, the members of the Ecole Classique Key Club acted as Krewe Marshals for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Krewe of Barkus Parade - the only Mardi Gras Krewe dedicated to the canine population. The Mystic Krewe of Barkus is a non-profit organization that works closely with the SPCA to help make our dogs feel loved, admired, and appreciated. At the parade, Ecole Classique's Key Club members led the way for the pirate-themed dogs and their owners by carrying signs and posts introducing the Canine Krewe one by one through the filled streets of the French Quarter. This is a time for families, friends, and animal lovers to pay tribute to man's best friend. The Ecole Classique Key Club is honored to collaborate with the pets of New Orleans every year with the Krewe of Barkus and also the Jefferson SPCA Pet Fest.



## News from the Key Club Governor

*By Winston Ardoin, Key Club District Governor*

Amazing Kiwanians,

Thank you for supporting me as district governor over the past year. Your support to both local Key Clubs and our district is incredible. Because of your involvement with the LaMissTenn District of Key Club, we have seen our district soar to new heights. We have come close to our goal for Project Eliminate again this year! By convention, we are sure we will hit \$20,000. We have also seen success in our efforts to promote the Taking Aktion Project. Both district board members and individual clubs have participat-



ed in a variety of projects to benefit both Aktion Clubs and mentally and physically-challenged individuals. Thanks to you, we have also come close to our membership goal. Because of your amazing over-

sight and support of your sponsored Key Clubs, we had an incredibly low number of unpaid clubs. Our membership looks like it will be higher than the year previous, a big goal for the current board! On a district level, we have had amazing board meetings and leadership trainings. We are preparing for an amazing District Convention in Jackson from April 7-9. I would like to thank everyone who helped their clubs finance the trip. Once again, thank you for everything you have done for Key Club in LaMissTenn. It truly has meant the world to me to have such an amazing organization behind our own.

## Alexandria Lures Terrific Kids with Outdoor Fun!

*By Darren Green, Alexandria Kiwanis Club*

Near the end of the school year each spring, the yelps and laughter of kids punctuate the quiet forest at Camp Kiwanis in rural Rapides Parish, a 160-acre campground owned by the **Kiwanis Club of Alexandria**.

It's a joyful noise, coming from local elementary students busy catching fish, making crafts, playing games and chowing down on pizza and ice cream. They are participants in the club's Terrific Kids program who are reaping the reward of months of work to improve academic skills.



Rapides Parish near U.S. Hwy. 71 amid gently - rolling hills, towering pine and hardwood trees and a 30-acre fish-stocked lake. This recreational gem offers kids – many of whom have limited opportunities to romp in a spacious natural setting - the chance to have fun in a different environment.

Kiwanis members interact with the students and supervise various activity stations that include fishing from a newly-enlarged and improved dock, making handicrafts and playing outdoor games, topped off by a lunch and goodie bags filled with school supplies and other treats.

“The kids really enjoy being out there -- a lot of them have never fished before,” he added. “Once they have been, they want to go again.”

“While the event is labor intensive, it's not expensive for a club to do, and it's a true service project,” said Green. “If we can play a small role in helping these kids to build their skills and self-esteem, then we feel like we've succeeded.”



The 85-member Alexandria club initially implemented Terrific Kids at Hadnot-Hayes Elementary, and has continued to add schools. Members of the Pineville club have offered to partner in the program this year.

“Each school gets to decide the criteria and goals for performance,” said Green, and about 50 children per school typically participate. Teachers outline the program at the beginning of each year, so students know what they must do to merit inclusion in the year-end outing.

Camp Kiwanis is set in north

[More pictures on page 17 . . .](#)

“About 10 years ago, we decided to try the Terrific Kids program of Kiwanis International,” said Darren Green, who coordinates the effort and is a club past president. “We wanted to focus on kids from kindergarten through third grade who were in underperforming schools.” Besides boosting grades, the program aims to build self-esteem and other behavioral qualities.



## Alexandria Lures Terrific Kids Continued

*By Darren Green, Alexandria Kiwanis Club*



## Kenner-North Knows Kids Need Kiwanis!

*By Doris Rappold, Kenner-North Kiwanis Club*

Another successful Mardi Gras parade was held by Washington Montessori School. New this year was the representation of the K-Kids Club started under the auspices of **Kenner-North Kiwanis**. Sal Larock, who designed the new program for Washington, served as Grand Marshal costumed as Uncle Sam. The Rewards for Reading, Backpack, and Birthday Books programs are also in full swing.

*Sal Larock and Washington Montessori School Principal Darlene Turnbull →*



Also, Under the supervision of KNK member Debbie Manos, Schneckenburger Elementary students made birthday boxes for children who may otherwise not have a birthday celebration. Inside of each box is cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorative paper plates and other party essentials. Thirty boxes were assembled and presented to Kenner-North Kiwanis for distribution to places such as Metropolitan Center for Women and Children.



## East St. Mary Hosts 5th Successful Trivia Night

*By Debbie Stevens, East St. Mary Kiwanis Club*

Five years ago the **East St Mary Kiwanis Club** in Morgan City, LA was trying to come up with a new fundraiser. The club already has their successful hurricane drink booth at the LA Shrimp and Petroleum Festival each year over the Labor Day weekend but they wanted something new and exciting for their community. Members Jeremy and Casie Callais had attended a trivia night for another organization in a nearby town then came back and presented the idea to our board and the club decided to make it happen.

The club sells tables for \$200 for a team of six players over the age of 21. We also provide two levels of sponsor-



ship, Majors at \$1000.00 and Minors at \$500.00. Sponsors receive a table and their name and logos on all of our printed material and the major ones are also sponsors of the question categories. We have ten categories of questions with at least ten questions in each. We give cash prizes for first, sec-

ond and third places.

Our event has become very successful and the community looks forward to it each year, some reserving their table many months ahead of time. This year we had 87 teams playing, 40 Kiwanians working it and many spouses and family members helping out. A local pizza restaurant, Game Day Pizza provides the food and our club sells beer, wine, margaritas and soft drinks. Also in conjunction with the event, a silent auction is held with items and services donated by the community. It takes an army to pull it off but with our great members it comes together each year!!!



## Algiers Sponsors Birthday Bingo

By Linda Leger, Algiers Kiwanis Club



*Kiwanis Club of Algiers Louisiana member David Singleton assist residents in playing bingo while sporting his Mardi Gras attire.*

On February 21, **Kiwanis Club of Algiers**, assisted by Academy of Our Lady (AOL) Key Club members, sponsored “Birthday and Bingo” for approximately 20 residents at the St. Luke Living Center in Algiers, Louisiana. Living in New Orleans, Mardi Gras was on everyone’s mind so the evening started at 6 p.m. with everyone receiving Mardi Gras beads to wear. We played 18 games of bingo while enjoying snacks and drinks.

Everyone gets to play, hearing impaired, sight impaired it doesn’t matter, we’ll have a Kiwanis or Key Club member sit with you. At the end of each game the winner was able to choose a prize from the cart of prizes, costume jewelry, cologne, perfume, body wash, 6 pack candy bars and much more. While the winner was deciding on a prize, Kiwanis members and Key Clubbers along with residents sang songs such as “Mardi Gras Mambo,” and their all-time favorite “Oh when the Saints go marching in.”

The last 30 minutes of the evening was reserved to celebrate Birthdays for the month by singing Happy Birthday as they enjoyed King Cake and milk. The fun settled down at 8 p.m. and each resident was able to pick a prize off the cart as we escorted them to their rooms. Birthday and Bingo is a regular service project for the Kiwanis Club of Algiers being held the third Tuesday of each month. The residents look forward to the bingo games, prizes and most of all they enjoy the company and everyone leaves a winner.



↑Pictured (L-R) Kiwanian Evans Thibodeaux, Julie Enos, Victoria Parria and Kayli Custodio, (AOL Key Clubbers) and Kiwanian Pete Schmitt sing songs for the residents.

→AOL Key Clubbers (L-R) Jenny Nguyen, Kayli Custodio, Vivian Manning, Julie Enos and Victoria Parria assist in calling the bingo games.



# Cortana Celebrates Bringing up Grades with Students

*By Debbie Salvant, Cortana Kiwanis Club*

The 2015-2016 **Cortana Kiwanis of Baton Rouge's** BUG (Bringing Up Grades) commitment to Broadmoor Elementary School third graders was such a big success, the club committed to working with third and fourth graders at Broadmoor for the current school year. This allowed us to follow last year's third graders who made such wonderful progress as well as to reach new third graders this year.

The club recently coordinated with the teachers to recognize students at mid-term with a party which included food treats and awards. The Cortana coordinator of the BUG program, Pam Morgan, hosted the party along with

Danny Fields, Dee LaBauve, Donna Leggett, Kristie Daspit, Sean McDonald and Wanda Magee.

Danny Fields posted the following on Facebook: "Proud to be a member of Cortana Kiwanis of Baton Rouge. Today, we spent time celebrating and motivating these amazing kids at Broadmoor Elementary School for bringing up their grades. It was fun rewarding them with ice cream and cookies and telling the kids about what it's like to work at Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital. I think we may have met a lot of future doctors, nurses, and business leaders today. Keep bringing up your grades, kids!"

Pam Morgan commented "We love our BUGs kids at Broadmoor and are so proud of them for bringing up their grades. We look forward to giving out even more awards at the end of the year along with some very special prizes - think bicycles! Thanks to the great teachers who work with these students."

It is obvious how this project touches the students as well as our members. The club is looking forward to the end of the year awards party.



## The Oaks Club Parties with BUGS!

*By Charlie Ford, The Oaks Kiwanis Club*



The Oaks Kiwanis Club hosted a celebration pizza dance party to honor Magnolia Woods Elementary students for **Bringing Up Grades** on January 25, 2017. The Oaks Club President Robert Blanchard provided his DJ services while students danced and partied to the music. Other Oaks Kiwanis members, Mary Stockwell and Danny McConnell, were there to help recognize the students with special awards and certificates to Raising Cane's. The Oaks Kiwanis Club provided pizza as well. Thanks goes to Mary Stockwell for sharing pictures on Facebook! The Oaks Kiwanis Club plans to continue to collaborate with Magnolia Woods Elementary School and the BUGS Program by recognizing outstanding students.



## Alexandria: Big Numbers = Big Results!

*By Dave Curry, Alexandria Kiwanis Club*

**Kiwanis Club of Alexandria** just celebrated 80 years of service to children and community, locally and globally.

Service globally? Absolutely. Through the Eliminate Project, the club has already given over \$130,000 and is on the way to fulfilling the Platinum Club pledge of \$135,000 which will result in protecting over 75,000 women and their future babies from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Although the club is old, an increasingly diverse group of over 85 men and women, young and old, are members. Recently, many of the longer-term members were honored with Perfect Attendance and Legion of Honor Awards.



Charnia Cheatwood (pictured) received an award for 46 years of Perfect Attendance from Kiwanis of Alexandria Past-President Darren Green and President Tom Phillips. Twenty-three individuals were recognized representing 327 years of perfect attendance. Also, Legion of Honor Awards for years of service to children and the community were awarded to Jim Leggett (45), Albin Provosty (45), Lacy Shaw (45), Jeems White (45), Brian Thomson (30), and Jim Curley Jr. (25). The club meets at the Diamond Grill for lunch on 1st, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays. (<http://kiwanisofalexandria.org>)

## Updates from Martin Kiwanis

By Jim Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club

### Scholarship Endowment Anticipates Martin Club 50th Anniversary Celebration

S. K. Airee, a charter member of the **Kiwanis Club of Martin**, TN, has endowed a Martin Kiwanis Award for Leadership and Service at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The endowment is to honor students whose leadership and volunteer activities reflect the Kiwanis directive of “improving the world, one child and once community at a time.”

The UTM Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs office will administer the annual award, with input from the Martin Kiwanis Club and the advisor of UTM Circle K club or a faculty member who belongs to the local Kiwanis Club.

The general criteria for the award include:

- Must be a least a sophomore in standing
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- Must have completed a significant project in service to children or youth or have strong evidence of leadership in service to children or youth
- Must have been an Eagle Scout, Gold Girl Scout, or a member of a Key Club in high school or in Circle K. or college club

It is hoped that the first award will be given in the local club’s 50th anniversary year. The official charter date was May 23, 1968, and activities are currently being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary date.

↓ *Pictured are (seated, l-r) Shashi Airee; Dr. S. K. Airee, Kiwanis charter member; Dr. Jim Clark, chapter president; (standing) Dr. Clinton Smith, chapter secretary and Circle K adviser; Dr. Otha Britton, governor-elect for the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Kiwanis district; Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor; Harry Henderson, charter member; and Steve Lemond, chapter treasurer.*

### Kiwanians Walk Across Tennessee - Twice!

Each year the UT Extension Service partners with county health departments to sponsor a “walk across Tennessee.” Intended to get people more active the program features teams of up to 8 members that attempt to walk 500 miles (total for the group) during an 8 week stretch. That averages about 8 miles per week per person, and there are lots of ways to do it through exercise equivalents. For example, 30 minutes on a stationary bike can net you anywhere from 2 to 5 miles depending on how vigorously you pedal. Last year’s Martin Kiwanis Club’s “Team K” racked up 1,400 miles, in part due to some pretty aggressive participants. As impressive as the 1,400 miles sounds, it pales in comparison to teams that garnered over 3,000 miles. There were also teams that apparently stopped in Crossville! Once again, 8 Martin Kiwanis Club members are participating. After 6 weeks the group has logged 898 miles. Team members (some of whom are pictured) include Governor-elect Otha Britton, former governor Linda Ramsey, president Jim Clark, assistant secretary Anna Clark, Maddy Rosenbaum, new member Sara Sieber, Bill Austin and Ann Gathers.



*Pictured are Anna Clark, Vickie Hazlewood (president-elect), Linda Ramsey, Maddy Rosenbaum, and Otha Britton (governor-elect).*

Continued on page 24 . . .

# Updates from Martin Kiwanis Continued

*By Jim Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club*

## Those Biologists Were Back!

Dr. Ann Gathers and Mr. Andrew Morency, accompanied by UT Martin students Aleya Brent and William Kuenzinger, returned to the March 16 meeting of the Martin Elementary School K-Kids - this time with a lesson on heart health. The hands-on learning experience about arteries, veins, ventricles and valves was followed by a quiz on what activities promote heart health by keeping it beating and what causes it damage. For instance, pizza vs kale, regular exercise vs couch potato?



## Future Kiwanian in the Making



Grandfather Keith Pettit is joined by his granddaughter Baylah at the griddle on the local pancake day, February 25, 2017. This year, the Martin Kiwanis Club hosted their Annual Pancake Breakfast at Martin Elementary School from 6:30-11:00 a.m. The menu included pancakes, sausage, eggs and beverages for only \$5.00 and preschoolers ate for free. Tickets could be purchased in advance or at the door. Take out breakfast plates were also available however, many stayed to eat because the Kiwanis Breakfast is “Where Friends Meet!” The breakfast benefited the club’s community service projects.

## New Orleans & Div. 4B Paint with a Purpose

*By Catherine Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club*

Look up! What do you see? If you're at Children's Hospital, you'll see adorable, whimsical tiles of fish, butterflies, caterpillars, monkeys . . . all popping with dynamic color to put a smile on your face!

**Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** has been partnering with Children's Hospital for the last 5 years painting these tiles whenever there is a need for more. These tiles are placed throughout the ceilings of the hospital as well as satellite clinics. The purpose is to lessen the anxiety the young patients feel in a medical setting.

This time, our club decided to make a fun evening of it, inviting all the clubs of Division 4A and 4B, together with their friends for an evening of "Painting with a Purpose." Wine, cheese, finger sandwiches and desserts were served throughout the evening as guests stenciled and painted these creatures onto the tiles.

Once dried, the tiles were re-traced in thick black markers to make the images "pop." Done! Ninety-six tiles delivered to Children's Hospital! So much fun – we're already planning our next painting event! Stay tuned . . .



## Pineville: Flippin' Pancakes

*By James Charles, Pineville Kiwanis Club President*



On March 7th, 2017, the **Kiwanis Club of Pineville**, Louisiana conducted their annual Pancake Fundraiser. The purpose of the fundraiser is not only to generate funds for the Club to assist local children, but also to contribute to the Eliminate Program to improve the health of children throughout the rest of the world.

At 4:30 a.m., club members arrived at the city's Kees Park and prepared the community building's kitchen and din-

ing areas for service. At 6:30 a.m., they began serving hot pancakes, sausages and coffee, as well as cold water and milk to hungry citizens of Central Louisiana. Key Club members from Pineville High School and Tioga High School performed exceptional work as they provided much needed assistance to the Kiwanians. While many meals were served at the park, many more were served as "to go" orders. In addition, more than fifty children of the Pineville Youth Center were served pancakes, sausages, milk and water...all free of charge.



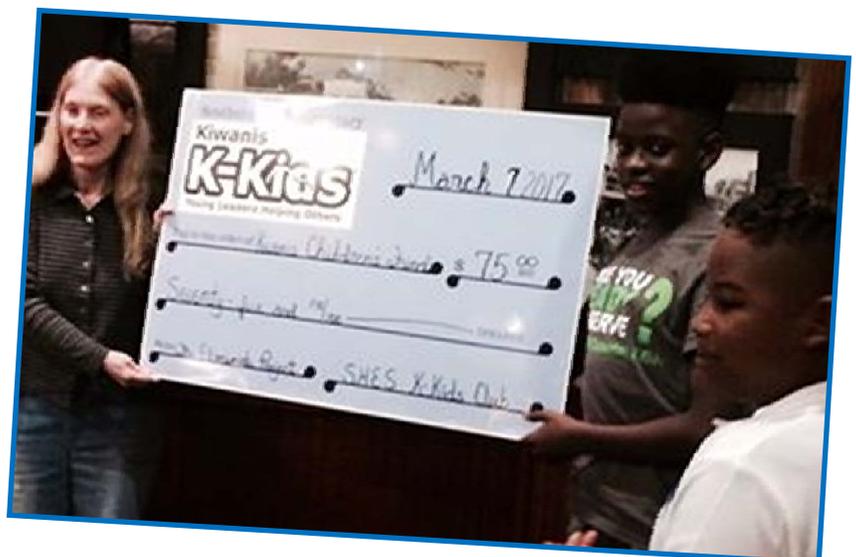
Local television, radio and print media helped the Pineville Kiwanis inform the community of the event resulting in a constant flow of customers. Local grocers Super 1 Foods and Mac's Fresh Market cheerfully donated pancake mix, coffee, milk, water, syrup and butter.

When the final customers were served at 8:30 p.m., Kiwanians estimated that approximately one thousand meals had been served.

## Southern Hills Elementary K-Kids: Caps for Kids

*By Stacey Simpson, Southern Hills Kiwanis Club*

On March 7, 2017 the Southern Hills Elementary School (SHES) K-Kids came to the **Kiwanis Club of Southern Hills'** meeting. The SHES K-Kids had a "Caps for Kids" drive at their school. Students paid \$1 to wear a cap to school, and the profits were designated for the Kiwanis Children's Fund. The SHES K-Kids presented a check for \$75.00 to President-Elect Rebecca Crow. SHES K-Kids Faculty Advisors, Nicole Howard-Francis and Lamesa K. Fleury, discussed some of the projects the club has completed for the year, including selling poinsettias to give the profits to the Eliminate Project and selling baked potatoes to fund club activities.



## South Baton Rouge: Our Community Heroes!

*By Bridgette Hardy & Lillian Grossley, South Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club*



**Kiwanis Club of South Baton Rouge** participated in the Annual Susan G. Komen “Race for the Cure” on Saturday, March 4, 2017, to support finding a cure for breast cancer. Club President Bridgette Hardy and Treasurer Lillian Grossley completed the walk in just over 1 hour and 15 minutes. It was a wonderful event and a beautiful day!

But the days event’s were not yet done for Bridgette and Lillian! They joined other volunteers from the South Baton Rouge Club at the Special Olympics Louisiana 2017 State Indoor Games Event. The club members were on the meal support team and distributed the drinks to the Olympic participants at Sherwood Middle School. Other members volunteering along with Bridgette and Lillian were Jessica F. Johnson, Peggy Raby, Breonna Raby, Tanya Thomas, Gayle Raby, and Dr. Marlin Ford.



## Clerk of Court Visits West Jefferson

*By Heather Rotolo, West Jefferson, Harvey Kiwanis Club*

Jon A. Gegenheimer, Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, was the guest speaker at the **Kiwanis Club of West Jefferson’s** meeting that took place on February 15th. The Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court’s office is one of the leading offices in the state. They also oversee the operation of the judges administration of their offices.

→ Pictured from left to right: Leroy Ledet, Club President, Jon A. Gegenheimer, and Milton Atebara, of the guest speaker program.



## Paris-Lakeway Helps “Helping Hand”

*Paris-Lakeway Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



**Paris-Lakeway Kiwanis Club** members volunteered to help answer the phones this year at the Henry County Helping Hand's two-month long Radio Auction on Tuesdays from January 9 - March 1.

Helping Hand is an institution in Henry County, involving dozens and dozens of volunteers who work to bring together communities and organizations for a common goal: to raise as much money as they can for a long list of local organizations and charities.

Kiwanis Helping “Helping Hand” is the perfect fit with both groups dedicated to helping the community!

## Amory's Backpack Program is Going Strong

*Amory Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Kiwanis Club of Amory** members have been busy packing bags each week for the club's backpack program. The program provides easy to prepare nutritious meals, juice boxes and snacks for kindergartners in local elementary schools. Kids leave on a Friday with a full backpack, and return it on Monday.

According to Feeding America ([www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)), a national organization dedicated to engaging the country in the fight to end hunger, “more than 22 million children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only meals they eat.” Amory's Backpack program helps underprivileged children of the Amory School District get the nutritious and easy-to-prepare food they need to help satisfy their hunger during the weekends.

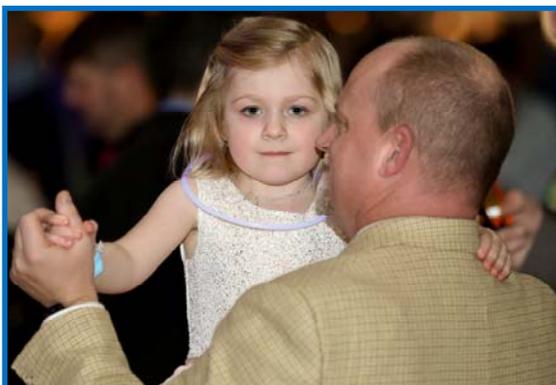


*Amory Middle School Builders Club students along with Kiwanis members helped to bag Valentine's treats for the backpack program.*

# Corinth Hosts Father-Daughter Ball

*Corinth Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The Corinth Kiwanis Club hosted the 6th Annual Father-Daughter Ball at the Crossroads Arena on Saturday, February 11, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. It was a perfect night for girls everywhere – a special evening for fathers, grandfathers and father-figures to carry their princesses to the ball for a night of fabulous food, music, dancing and more. The event raised money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House and Excel By 5. Special thanks to Kiwanis member Donnie Bates for volunteering his photography services at the event!



# Pascagoula: Reading Around the World

*Pascagoula Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In February, the **Pascagoula Kiwanis Club** kicked off their Annual *Read Around the World Campaign*, which provides a book to every 2nd grader in the community. The club distributed over 800 books to second graders in Pascagoula, Gautier, and Moss Point! Club members read the first few chapters of *Dinosaurs before Dark*, the first book of the Magic Tree House series written by Mary Pope Osborne, and then allowed the students to display their own reading skills by reading aloud to the class.



*Pascagoula Kiwanis Past President Rogena Woods-Mitchell visits students at Eastlawn Elementary School during the club's Read Around the World Campaign.*

The project encourages students to enjoy reading at an early age. According to the Pascagoula Kiwanis Club President Jen Dearman, "This is by far one of the club's favorite projects to accomplish each year."



## Lafayette Raises Money for New School Playground

*Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



On March 14, 2017, the **Kiwanis Club of Lafayette** presented a check for \$25,000 towards a much-needed new playground structure at Woodvale Elementary School. Present to accept the gift were Principal Monique Vidos and representatives of the Woodvale P.T.C., including P.T.C. President Brandi Comeaux, as well as some Woodvale students.

The P.T.C. raised more than \$35,000 over the past five years to build momentum for the project and the Kiwanis of Lafayette is pleased to assist them in making the project a reality. The project will be built upon the conclusion of the current school year and will be ready for use at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

In addition, because of Kiwanis' involvement, the project's contractor Kincade Recreation (who previously partnered with our club to build Parc Independence), has agreed to donate four benches with Kiwanis logos for the project! The playground equipment will be used by students, as well as others who participate in after school programs and activities.

## Picayune Hosts Special Olympics Event

*Picayune Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

A participant crosses the finish line just before a competitor during the Annual Special Olympics event on Thursday, March 9, hosted by the **Kiwanis Club of the Greater Picayune Area**. The event took place at Picayune Memorial High School at Lee-Triplett Stadium.

Kiwanis President Tom Milar said this year's event brought more than 150 participants, breaking previous records. Pearl River City Key Club members also volunteered to help make this a successful event.



# Dawn Busters Serves the Community Right!

*Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

## Basketball Fun with Kids!

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club members volunteered at the Sun Belt Conference Championship at the University of New Orleans Lakefront Arena from March 8-11, where more than 1,000 local school kids had fun learning basketball skills.



## Feeding the Homeless

Three times per month the Dawn Busters Kiwanis provide and serve hot meals to the homeless at Lantern Light Ministry located behind St. Joseph's Church on Tulane in New Orleans. The club has provided over 30,000 hot meals to men, women and children in need.



## Sharing Healthy Snacks with Students

On January 25, 2017 Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club members handed out nutritious snacks of Harvest Snaps to students at Kenner Discovery School to teach the kids about making healthy eating choices.



## Moisant Reaches Out!

*Moisant Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

On February 22, **Moisant Kiwanis Club** members provided meals for tornado victims who experienced devastation in New Orleans East. Also, in February, the club collected more than 3,000 cans of soup during their *Souper Bowl Drive* for local food pantries. Way to go Moisant!



## Pontchartrain Give Bikes for Books

*Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club** members Deidre Charlot and Myra Lewis met with the second and fifth grade students at Homer Plessy Community School Friday, January 13th to start up the *Bikes for Books Reading Program*. Each student was provided an age-appropriate book to begin their extracurricular reading. Book reports will be collected mid-May and awards will be given to top readers at the close of the year school program.



# Kiwanis of LSU Helps with Special Olympics

*Kiwanis Club of LSU Facebook Page*

On the afternoon of Wednesday, February 22, **Kiwanis Club of LSU** members worked with some gracious volunteers from Campus Federal to gather all materials and stuff the packets for the Special Olympics event in March. Club members were also available the day of packet pick-up to distribute packets to the Special Olympic coaches.



# Kenner-North & K-Kids Make Comfort Dolls

*Kenner-North Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



In January, **Kenner-North Kiwanis Club** members visited Washington Elementary School to help the K-kids stuff "comfort" dolls for patients at Childrens Hospital.



# Shreveport Helps Give Coats to Kids

*Shreveport Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Shreveport** was at Porter's Cleaners on Benton Road in Bossier City from 8:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, December 31, 2016, helping Mark Porter give away Coats for Kids.



# Governor Fred Rings the Bell for Tupelo

*Tupelo Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The La. Miss. W. Tenn. Kiwanis District Governor Fred Pitts takes a turn ringing the Salvation Army bell for **Tupelo Kiwanis Club** on Saturday, December 17, 2016.



KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

# PARIS

ANNUAL CONVENTION

❖ 2017 ❖

102nd CONVENTION

July 13–16, 2017

[www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)

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PLAN  
YOUR  
TRIP

*Let's rendezvous! See you in the City of Light!*

# SAVE THE DATE

## June 23 - 25

### LAMSTN District Convention Natchez, Miss.



### Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, District Bulletin Editor

#### Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: [tiffany@lamisstenn.org](mailto:tiffany@lamisstenn.org)

**ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS:** All article submissions must be attached in an email as a Word document and should be approximately 250 words or less. *Please submit original articles written by your club's members. We cannot use pre-published articles due to copyright laws.* Do not include photos within text documents; send as separate attachments in the highest resolution TIFF or JPEG file if possible. Include a description of the photograph.

**DEADLINES:** The deadline for article submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. Here are the deadlines for the rest of this year:

*July-August-September 2017 Deadline = June 17, 2017*

*October-November-December 2017 Deadline = September 17, 2017*

#### Include this information:

**CLUB:** Club, City, State, and Division Number

**EVENT:** Make sure to answer: **what** was done, **why** it was done, **who** benefited, **when** and **where** it occurred, **how** it was accomplished, etc.

**ACCURACY:** Please double check all dates, locations, etc., and be sure that all names are spelled correctly. While we do our best to correct issues if we notice them, we do not have the resources to confirm this type of information.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Avoid poses such as check acceptances, podium speakers, and groups standing in line or stacked rows. If you're shooting a service project, look for an action photo of the volunteers in progress or interacting with children. Shoot from the front – we are not likely to use a shot with mostly backs. Use as high a resolution as possible. Captions may not always be published, but it is helpful if you can identify subjects.

*"The Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News" is the official publication of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International.*

#### 2016-2017 LA.-MISS.-W. TENN. DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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**HOURS:** Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.