

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017

Kiwanis®

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



**South Lake Charles:
Sprouting Good Character**

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



16



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ON THE COVER:

South Lake Charles Kiwanians, Dr. George Hutchinson, Vic Miesel and Louis Haxthausen, plant an herb garden with the kids of the St. Nicholas Children's Center, a center dedicated to serving children with autism, developmental delays, and neurological disorders. See more on Page 30.

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BACK COVER

Updates from Governor Fred Pitts

By R. Fred Pitts, Governor

What have I learned as your Governor in the first six months of my year? The single biggest thing is that it takes a large team to lead the LAMSTN District as your Governor. So, halfway through this Kiwanis year let me say a big THANK YOU to the Trustees, Lt. Governors, District Chairs, individual Kiwanis club officers and last but certainly not least, Charlie and Tiffany in district office. Everyone seems to be focused on growing our clubs and service to the kids. THANK YOU one and all.

I believe we have more clubs with growth at the end of May than I can remember in the last several years. We have our first new club in six years, the Kiwanis Club of Northeast Shelby County (Arlington, TN). It took For-



mula Chair Gary Graham and his Team, Lieutenant Governor Bryce and the sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Germantown, TN. Local team members Jim Walther and Joe Keohane have lead the charge. THANK YOU ALL!

One down and six to go to reach our team goal of 7 new clubs. Can we do

it? YES, WE CAN! The 2016-2017 LAMSTN District Team can finish this year big. I BELIEVE, DO YOU?

President Jane Erickson set a goal for her team of Governors to open 300 new clubs and we have 100 down and 200 to go with six months left. The 100 new clubs are a record already but as President Jane constantly reminds us it is not the number of new clubs that is important, it is the additional service to kids that is important.

Think about how much more your club could do with twice as many members. It is so easy to do this if every Kiwanian would enlist ONE NEW MEMBER a year. Is that too much to ask if you truly believe in service to kids? **#kidsneedkiwanis**

Club Leadership Retreats for 2017-2018 Officers and Directors

The La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District is inviting all 2017-2018 Club Presidents, along with other incoming Club Officers and Club Board Members to attend a Club Leadership Retreat this summer to **CONNECT THE DOTS!**

The Retreats will help club leaders better understand how Membership is directly linked to successful Service Projects and adequate finances – both for administrative needs and meaningful service projects.

The date and locations for the Club Leadership Retreats are spread out over 7 weekends this summer – and across the District to provide more opportunities for the club leaders to attend. Incoming Club Presidents should plan to take advantage of this training opportunity in preparation for their year as club leaders.

At these Retreats, Club Secretaries will have their own train-

ing, learning how to make better use of the Kiwanis Reporting System – Portalbuzz.

More information on specific locations will be provided soon. For now, **SAVE THE DATES** on your calendar and plan to attend – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – in the following cities:

Leadership Retreat Schedule	
July 8 th	Lafayette, LA and Memphis, TN
July 13 th -15 th	Kiwanis International Convention
July 22 nd	Natchitoches, LA and Martin, TN
July 29 th	Vicksburg, MS and Ponchatoula, LA
August 5 th	Baton Rouge, LA and Hattiesburg, MS
August 12 th	Lake Charles, LA and Tupelo, MS
August 19 th	New Orleans, LA area

Message from the Immediate Past Governor

By Gary Graham, Immediate Past Governor



Rounding the Turn and Heading for Home

We are entering the last quarter for this year and we are ahead of where we were this time last year. We have positive growth and one new club so far. This is thanks to all of you who are working to strengthen your clubs to build for the future and to increase service to the children in your communities. The biggest challenge is not to get discouraged if you are not growing as fast as you would like or if you keep hearing no when you ask someone to join. NO doesn't mean it will always be NO. It may mean it is not the right time for them.

I can tell you that from personal experience. I will be forever grateful to the late Steve Kaufman from the Baton Rouge Kiwanis club. Steve was a retired Air Force pilot and a real estate salesman. He also was a fan of LSU athletics who my wife Jamie knew through her work. She asked him to help us buy the house next door to her mother when it came on the market. He did this as any good realtor would do but he also tried to sell me on Kiwanis. Over the two months that we had the house brought up to code after the home inspection and getting the

loan approved, Steve would constantly ask me to join. I said no. I was too busy at work, Jamie and I had not even been married a year, and I was going to have to work on the house make over for us to move in, etc. Four times I told him no. But he did not give up. I guess he saw something in me that would make a good Kiwanian. Finally to appease him, I agreed to help with the Pancake Festival the club had held for 40 years. He had been so nice to Jamie over the years with giving her tickets that I thought I could help with this at least. Well it was so much fun meeting so many of the members, many who I knew from LSU that I agreed to join and nearly 27 years later, I'm still at it. This is my story about how to deal with a NO – just keep at it. I have heard NO many times and have not been successful with everyone I've asked but I have had many who did join.

The second part of my Kiwanis experience deals with retention. Recruitment as I noted above is persistence. Retention is patience and caring. In my Kiwanis journey, I almost resigned after about three years because of things I overheard at the table where I was sitting at one particular meeting. To hear it said by a fellow Kiwanian and also a member of my church was disheartening. I was not sure if I wanted to be a member of a club with members such as this particular one. But I talked it over with a couple of other members who I respected. One was Dr. Mort Levy, Mr. Kiwanian, who had made great strides in our District in the

face of opposition from many clubs. That opposition did not deter him as Governor and it did not deter him from making our District more diverse and welcoming to all who wanted to serve children. The other was John Manda, who said I needed to stay and make the changes to our club with him and others. He put me on our biggest committee as Vice Chair and said I was going to be President of the club one day soon. My point is that you will get discouraged and you may see other members feel the same. When this happens, involve yourself and/or them in service and remind yourself of the Six Objects of Kiwanis. That is what Kiwanis is about and not what some misguided individuals may say. I used a Latin term in my last column and have another that is somewhat mock Latin -- *Illegitimi non carborundum*. Or loosely translated - *Don't let the bastards grind you down*.

So step up and volunteer to lead, help make your club welcoming and relevant to all of your members. You don't have to be an officer or Director to serve as an example of a good Kiwanian. Retention is where we can make a difference in our numbers. Be the caring member and you may be the difference in a member's life as well as the children in your community. I will always be thankful for the late Steve Kaufman, John Manda and Mort Levy who did not give up on me and I work every day to emulate what these extraordinary Kiwanians did to change my life and to improve the lives of children in Baton Rouge. I can only hope I can live up to the standard they set.

Greetings from the Governor-Designate

By Otha Britton, Governor-Designate

The 99th annual district convention is now history and I am officially your “Governor-Designate.” Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve our district as Governor for 2017-2018. We had a great convention and I am thankful that so many of you were able to attend and enjoy the fun, fellowship and educational sessions. Many of you represented your clubs at the House of Delegates, and although this session is very business-related, it is an important part of our convention.

Whether you have attended many of our conventions or have never attended one, please consider attending the 100th LaMissTenn District Convention next year. It will be in Baton Rouge and will be held the first weekend in August, our usual date. It isn’t our 100th birthday (our district will be 100 in 2020), but it will indeed be our 100th annual district convention. Also, this year is the time in the cycle where we have a Mid-Winter Conference rather than regional conferences. Please plan to join us in Natchez in mid-February (the weekend after Mardi Gras) for the Mid-Winter. Conventions and conferences are a great time to connect with other Kiwanians in our area and meet new friends and share ideas.

Several of us descended recently upon Meridian, Mississippi to assist with “re-starting” their nearly 96-year-old club. The membership had fallen to just five remaining members and they



asked for assistance in saving their club. A Kiwanis crew of nine from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana visited numerous school and city administrators, business owners and executives, bankers, and financial advisors, as well as a doctor, an insurance salesman, coke plant manager, and others, and compiled a list of potential Kiwanians, some of whom were eager to join and to recruit their friends. An early “organizational” meeting was held on Thursday, June 29 with several who plan to become a part of that club. We are hopeful that we will soon have another 15 or so to add to the five remaining members. One of the school administrators is very excited about getting a Key Club started in one of the schools.

At the district convention I stated my goals for the 2017-2018 year. They are straightforward and uncomplicated.

The first is to grow the membership of the LaMissTenn District and help

reverse the trend of declining membership that has haunted us for several years. Hopefully that trend will have already turned around in the current year. Declining membership not only hurts our ability to remain financially viable, but it means that our kids won’t be served. Kiwanis International says that each Kiwanian impacts the lives of 206 children. That means that for each increase of 10 members, the lives of about 2,060 kids will be impacted by the services of Kiwanis. Our district has lost over 3,000 members from our highest level; just think how many more kids could be impacted by Kiwanis if we increased our membership to previous levels.

The second goal is to increase the number of Kiwanians in our district who are willing to step forward and serve at the district level instead of just at the club level. Serving the district and/or your division is extremely rewarding if you simply put your heart into it. It is a great honor to serve as a lieutenant governor, a trustee, or as governor. With over 4,000 members in our district we should have no trouble getting competition for these positions. We must answer many questions about this during the upcoming year.

Now, on to Paris to get Greg Beard elected as International Trustee!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Otha".

99th Annual District Convention

Two hundred plus Kiwanians and guests gathered for a weekend of motivation, education, fellowship, recognition, and fun at the 2017 District Convention in Natchez, Miss. on June 23-25. Classes ranging from cooking & painting to leadership training & membership building were available. Everyone put on their best Hawaiian attire for the Saturday Night Luau: A Celebration of Service, and enjoyed Kalua pig, dancing, karaoke, games, prizes and even a special surprise . . . Elvis! A good time was had by all!

Special thanks to The Natchez Trace Kiwanis Club for hosting this fine event & to Governor Fred Pitts and Carol Pitts for organizing a fabulous Luau!

OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN AT THE NATCHEZ CONVENTION

District Officers Elected:

- Otha L. Britton, Kiwanis Club of Martin, Tenn., elected as District Governor for 2017-2018.
- Judy B. Couvillion, Kiwanis Club of Hammond, La., elected as Governor-Elect for 2017-2018. Unfortunately, due to doctor's orders, Judy regrets not being able to fulfill the position of Governor-Elect for 2017-2018. The Board will appoint someone to fill the vacancy at the August 25-26 Board Meeting.

Resolutions Approved by the House of Delegates:

- **Resolution No. 1:** Appreciation resolution for International Counselor Lance Incitti, Host Chair Patricia Anderson, and the Natchez Convention Center and Staff.
- **Resolution No. 2:** Appreciation to Key Club Governor Anna Kate Broussard and Circle K Governor Kaelyn Nguyen for their participation at the convention; appreciation to K-Kids member Rasil Khotia and Key Clubber Damira McGruder for their special presentations to the Convention; and a pledge for continued support for all SLP Programs in the District.



Left to right: International Counselor Lance Incitti, Ruth Incitti, Governor Fred Pitts, Carol Pitts, Immediate Past Governor Gary Graham & Jamie Graham



2017-2018 Lieutenant Governors



2017-2018 District Trustees

More pictures on page 7 . . .

WWW.LAMISSTENN.ORG

99th Annual District Convention Continued

FUN!





District Foundation Success at DCON



By Cathy Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair

THE DISTRICT FOUNDATION LOVES OUR CLUBS!

- Clubs in District contributing to Annual Club Gift: 55%
- Baskets donated at the District Convention: 53
- Raffle tickets sold for gift baskets: \$4,297
- New Friends of the Foundation: 10 = \$1,200
- River of Life Lithographs awarded (\$1,000 each) = 4
- John T. Roberts Awarded (\$1,000 each) = 4
- Tablet of Honor Awarded (\$2,000 each) = 3
- Key Club T-Shirt Quilt raised for scholarships: \$835



John T. Roberts



River of Life



Key Club Scholarship Quilt

BENEFIT TO OUR DISTRICT FOUNDATION PRICELESS!

When your club donates to the District Foundation, in any way *we put your funds to work* for AEDs, Community Grants, Service Leadership training, Key Club & Circle K Scholarships, Disaster Relief.

THANK YOU for supporting the LaMissTenn Foundation!

A BIG NOTE OF THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CLUBS FOR DONATING GIFT BASKETS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1A: Union City, Martin
 1C: Memphis (2), Germantown
 3: Pearl, Laurel, Columbia
 4A: Algiers, Big Easy, New Orleans (2), Pontchartrain, St. Bernard-Arabi, Third District (2), West Jefferson
 4B: Lakeside, Houma, Kenner North, Dawn Busters
 5: Rankin County
 6: Ruston
 7: Acadiana Lafayette, Southwest Lafayette
 8E: St. Gabriel
 8W: Red Stick, Cortana (2), Baton Rouge</p> | <p>9: Shreveport, Southern Hills
 10: Columbus, Starkville
 11: Central Louisiana, Alexandria, Winnfield
 12: South Lake Charles, Southwest Contraband, Lake Charles
 13: Greater Covington, Hammond, Northshore Mandeville
 14: Biloxi, Gulfport, Pascagoula, Orange Grove
 15: Natchez Trace (2), Vicksburg
 17: St. Martinville
 Other: Natchez Trace Convention Center, Gov. Fred Pitts</p> |
|--|--|

District Helps the Stewpot



The Natchez host committee selected “The Stewpot” as the recipient of the 99th District Convention Service Project. Convention attendees contributed countless boxes and bags of cleaning supplies, non-perishable food items and also made cash donations totaling more than \$1,500 to this homeless center. Thank you to everyone who donated to this very important organization!

← Pictured from left to right are Mary Jane Gaudet, Board Member from the Natchez Stewpot, and Natchez Trace Kiwanian Patricia Anderson, DCON Host Chair.



ELIMINATE

maternal/neonatal tetanus

By Dennis Oliver, Project Eliminate Chair

Email: dmokiwanis@aol.com • Phone: 228/343-5444

1. Are Kiwanis dollars saving 1000s of babies every day?
2. Are world leaders applauding Kiwanis' efforts to rid the world of tetanus?
3. Is Kiwanis moving rapidly to keep the 2010 promise - no more tetanus in the world?
4. Has the death rate been reduced from a baby dying every 9 minutes to 1 in 15 minutes?

The answer to these four questions is:

ABSOLUTELY!!!

A QUICK REVIEW:

1. Kiwanis has raised 110 million dollars in gifts and pledges. (68 million in cash)
2. LaMissTenn has 1.9 million towards 2.3 million.
3. Your LaMissTenn Key Club has raised \$50,000 toward a \$100,000 goal in just 2 years! (great job!!!)
4. Really great news with 18 countries remaining out of 39 in 2010. (4 more will drop in the next few weeks)

SO TODAY, TOMORROW & THE FUTURE:

1. The LaMissTenn District has \$387,000 in pledges to be collected!
2. All clubs and each member is asked to continue eliminate activity.

My friends, there are no babies suffering from convulsions so bad that they break bones and die at the end of your street, but it is real in our Kiwanis world.

Today I am asking 4,231 LaMissTenn members to continue to save these babies \$1.80 at a time.

With so many blessings we enjoy, can we really say no?



Dennis M. Oliver Appointed as Kiwanis Children's Fund Trustee

Dennis Oliver of Gulfport, Miss., was appointed to a one-year term as a trustee of the Kiwanis Children's Fund Board, beginning October 1, 2017.

A member of Kiwanis for 40 Years, Dennis has held various positions including distinguished lieutenant governor, membership chairman, club president, distinguished club president, IDD campaign coordinator and advisor for

K-Kids, Terrific Kids and Key Club International.

Dennis has also served as a member of the Kiwanis International Board, district foundation secretary, governor, CKI administrator, coordinator of the Eliminate Project and was a John T. Roberts Fellow. He is also a Diamond-level George F. Hixson Fellow, River of Life recipient and a charter Walter Zeller Fellow (Diamond Level).

Outside of Kiwanis, Dennis is a board member of de L'Eppe Deaf Center and a volunteer with the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center. For his outstanding volunteer efforts, Dennis received the President's Call to Service Award.

Dennis and his wife, Ame, have four daughters, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Aspire to Inspire: “Elwood” the Kitty & Kiwanis Moments

By Jeems White, III, Past Governor

A few months ago four neighborhood cats “took up” with us. Obviously these cats were scavenging the neighborhood for sympathetic patrons. Since Oscar, our longtime pet cat of about seventeen years, died several months prior and we missed him, it wasn’t difficult to put out food for the new arrivals. Before long one of the new cats had a litter of kittens. [There is a serious problem with urban feral/semi-feral cats in that they reproduce at a prodigious rate. The “TNR” (Trap, Neuter, Release) program greatly ameliorates this problem and is generally recommended.]

Alas all of the kittens in the litter died except one. We brought the survivor inside, fed him with an eye dropper and nurtured him. He now is ten weeks old and weighs nearly three pounds. His name became Elwood which is a fitting moniker for a much bigger feline than the still-tiny-but-frisky little fur-ball. We have a certain feeling of satisfaction and success because likely our efforts salvaged him.

In some ways these are similar feelings to those that Kiwanians get



when helping young children with the multitude of problems that can beset them during the process of growing to adulthood. Childhood difficulties are not the fault of the children. As Kiwanians, our goal is to identify individual children who we might help grow to be productive adults. That’s not always easy nor is it easy to know what assistance is needed and just how we can provide the right encouragement for the child to be successful in their journey. With Elwood the need was obvious and critical. The performance required some trial and error but seems to have been successful so far.

Of all the children that we Kiwanians help with our various programs and projects, probably most of the children would do okay without our help.... but and it’s a huge BUT..... our help is critical for some number

of them. We may never know this nor which ones. Sometimes we see results, sometimes not. However it is an indisputable fact that our efforts do make a real difference in the lives of many children. Our efforts do the most good for those children who need it the most....even when we don’t know it. So, yes, we do all we can to make a difference in the life of one child at a time. We never know what success might result from even just a single kindness at a critical time in a child’s life.

Elwood has no concept of the nurturing we provided but he likes to sit in a lap and be scratched. He shows appreciation with gentle purring. Elwood has the prospects of a good life. Our reward and satisfaction is watching him grow and just be a cat. Is that not similar to the feelings and silent personal reward we get as Kiwanians when we make a difference in a child’s life? Call it a Kiwanis Moment?



Looking at Human & Spiritual Values with Fresh Eyes

By Court Crow, Human & Spiritual Values District Chair



The district convention has concluded and club leaders need to start looking ahead to the next administrative year. Include human and spiritual values in your planning.

Kiwanians, take a fresh look at the first two of our six objects. Let's find new ways to bring these ideals to our clubs' and communities' attention.

A. Be sure that each club meeting starts with an invocation. May I suggest that we ask different Kiwanians to offer the invocation each meeting, not the same person. I know change can shake things up, but having the same person may make the whole opening ceremony "fall-

in-a-rut" while a different person shares that responsibility or privilege.

B. Be sure to end each meeting with the Kiwanis prayer. May I suggest the following Kiwanis prayer; it won't take more than a couple of weeks to learn:

"Dear Lord: in Thy infinite goodness and mercy, look down upon Thy children in this hour of need. Grant unto us the light and the wisdom to know Thee and to serve Thee. And give us the strength and the courage, with Thy help, to face whatever the morrow may bring. And grant us peace. Amen"

C. Start planning now to sponsor a community prayer breakfast ... or a prayer breakfast for your K-family ... or a prayer breakfast for the young athletes of your community (co-sponsored with FCA) for the spring. Plan one for the spring to get 2018 started on the right spiritual foot. Your civic leaders will always show up and invite two or three different religious leaders to lead.

D. Start your planning now to recognize

a layperson of the year (yes, layman of the year) and, maybe, a young leader of the year (high school or college) recognized for the spiritual role models they are in the community. The district will recognize these at the district convention next summer and I hope we have several recommendations from clubs throughout the district.

E. Include short devotional or spiritual messages in your weekly or monthly newsletters. "Borrow" these from any source you may have: other Kiwanis newsletters, or radio spots you hear on your local station.

Please don't make this committee one of little consequence. There are so many ways that our clubs can emphasize the first and second objects of Kiwanis International. And many Kiwanians feel that their clubs broaden their personal ministries in our communities. Let's make 2017 & 2018 a year we can remember for reigniting our love for human and spiritual values.

Fred Banks, 2016-2017 Layperson of the Year

By Court Crow, Human & Spiritual Values District Chair



We are pleased to announce that Past Governor Fred Banks was award-

ed the 2016-17 Lay Person of the Year at this year's 99th District Convention in Natchez, MS. Fred was recognized for a great combination of his involvement in his church and in the community of a spiritual and faith-based nature. He serves as the Adult Sunday School Teacher, on the Board of Trustees and Past President of the Board.

Outside his church, he is a Director on the Board of Directors of the Loui-

siana Children's Home in Ruston. As a part of his Christian life, he contributes heavily to the church's food bank and he also provides assistance to the needy by paying rent and utilities through the Denham Spring Community "Helping Hands Program."

Fred has been a great Kiwanian and it was a pleasure to recognize him this year as Layperson of the Year.

Helping Both the Foundation & the Individual

By Cliff Giffin, Foundation Board & Finance Committee Chair



The District Foundation is a tax-exempt 501c (3) organization that was set up to be the fundraising arm of the District. The mission of the Foundation is: *To Provide Financial Assistance for Projects and Programs Within Our District.*

The District Foundation is a Private Foundation because all the income that it currently receives is from Kiwanians and Kiwanis Clubs. Because it does not receive more than 1/3 of its income from the public, there is a limit on the amount of the deductions for donations by individuals. Instead of being 50% of income, the limit is 30%.

Even though there is a limit, many of the donation levels available through the Foundation may still be 100% deductible as the example below shows.

For example: John and Mary Smith are both Kiwanians. They decide, after hearing about the Foundation, that they want to make charitable donations to the Foundation. They each decide to become a Friend of The Foundation and they contribute \$120 each to get this year's pin. John also decides that

he wants to help other club members to purchase a Tablet of Honor for their club President. He contributes an additional \$300. The Smiths also make additional donations to their church and other Charities totaling \$25,000. Their adjusted gross income for the year is \$100,000.

Their Charitable Contribution Deduction would be calculated as follows:

- There is an overall limit of 50% of their income, equaling \$50,000. Therefore, all their other donations are 100% deductible, equaling \$25,000.
- There are two limits on the donations to Private Foundations:
 1. The lesser of 30% of adjusted gross income, equaling \$30,000 or
 2. 50% of adjusted gross income less other allowable donations, equaling \$25,000.
- Therefore, all the donations to the Foundation are allowed, or \$540.00
- This makes their total deduction \$25,540 (\$25,000 + \$540)

Therefore, the Smiths help both the Foundation and themselves.

If the Smiths' employers had a matching program, they may have also been able to get another \$540 donation

to the Foundation, if it qualified.

Also, John and Mary have now met one of the requirements to be a Distinguished Kiwanian. They have each made a personal contribution to the District Foundation.

ANYONE can donate to the Foundation not just Kiwanians.

In fact, the more public donations received the better. That brings the Foundation closer to the 1/3 amount to help it convert to a public charity.

Note: The example used does not consider other items that may affect the results.

Individuals should review their own tax situation, or discuss with their tax preparer to determine how the donations will affect their situation.

This is the first in a series of articles showing how the District Foundation can be used as a tool for tax and financial planning. The next one will be on using the Foundation as a beneficiary.

About the author: Cliff Giffin is a retired CPA with 40 years experience in public accounting. He has helped nonprofits get and keep their tax exempt status, performed audits and prepared tax returns for tax exempt organizations. He set up and ran his former club's (Third District) private foundation.

Sharing the Kiwanis Story

By Travis B. Moore, Club Newsletter Coordinator

It's a great time to be a Kiwanian and it's a great time to be a part of our Kiwanis family. And if you are as excited about the Kiwanis family as I am, then you should be committed to enhancing the world of Kiwanis, promoting Kiwanis family, sharing our Kiwanis story, and opening new doors of opportunities for all Kiwanians. We have a super story to tell and we should be ready to tell it to anyone who will listen.

We all know about Kiwanis, but if others don't know what Kiwanis does, then they can't get excited. We need to recognize that sharing the Kiwanis name and sharing the Kiwanis purpose are two of the most important tasks that we can do as Kiwanians. But, at the same time, these are two of the most challenging and difficult tasks for each of us to fulfill. So we need to enlighten everyone on who we are and what we are. This is the one thing that we can all do, but it will take an effort by each of us.

We as Kiwanians need to strive to make sure that our Kiwanis stories are being shared with our community lead-



ers, business leaders, city officials, churches, school faculty members, local media, neighbors, families, friends and everyone on the street. The more that people hear what Kiwanis does, the more excitement we will create, and we can continue to open new doors of opportunities for new service projects. And, just as important, as our Kiwanis stories are told to others, others will become excited and our membership will increase.

To share our excitement, please be mindful of our opportunities to use our club newsletters, Facebook accounts and Twitter accounts to tell our stories. We need to make sure that our club newslet-

ters are being emailed to our club members, as well as to our community leaders and to our school officials. These community leaders need to stay informed on our projects and they need to be encouraged to attend our meetings.

And in today's world, we need to be taking advantage of all aspects of social media, including Facebook and Twitter. These are such powerful tools that can enhance our clubs, our publicity, our name recognition, our service projects, and our Kiwanis purpose, and we need to use them as much as possible. Let's make sure that our clubs have newsletters and Facebook accounts, and let's make sure that our clubs are using them and that we are tweeting about this on Twitter.

Let's all pull together, print, forward, send, like, share, re-post, tweet and whatever new buzzword you may know about. These are exciting times for all of us and we need to make this an exciting time to be a part of our Kiwanis family.

[#kidsneedkiwanis](#)

Summertime: Refreshing K-Kids Programs

By Don Eye, K-Kids Chairman



Most Kiwanis SLP Advisors are on break since school is out for the summer. If you have several SLPs I can understand why it is a great feeling to not have a commitment for a month or so. But, it is a great time to refresh your program and get a head start for next year while

you can have more time to plan. Some schools are going to have staff changes and rework their programs. K-Kids should not be omitted accidentally or purposely in the new year. Try to visit a staff meeting or meet with the principle/advisor at your school before the start of the new school year. Meeting times, places, and possibly your advisors may change. Your input will prove your commitment to your school and the program.

For years I have prepared bags with school supplies for the Terrific Kids programs. With hundreds of kids in our programs it took time and energy to accom-

plish the task. Suddenly, we realized this would be a great project for the Aktion Clubs and maybe the Builders Clubs. They now get the service hours and I get to go fishing.

Last quarter I mentioned that we were starting a new K-Kids Club and a Terrific Kids program at a new school. Well we just received the charter confirmation for the K-Kids Club and the school staff is elated. We first contacted the new principal last summer, introduced ourselves, gave her some time to get settled in, and then she called us. That was easy. Great school and great kids!

Key Leader Bonanza!

By Linda Ramsey, Key Leader - North Chair

Eighteen Martin, TN, middle and high school students attended the May 5-7 Key Leader event at Lakeshore Assembly in Eva, TN. Jessica Hightower, Key Club advisor at Martin Westview, and Martin Kiwanis member Jayne Parrish also attended. Students from Greenfield, TN, were so excited that during the two weeks following Key Leader, they signed up 19 students to begin a Key Club chapter in their high school.

Jayne said that there were many good moments of discovery and coming together. Jessica indicated that the ropes course and the challenges there were very important, and very satisfying for participants. She described one



person's reluctance and then success in trusting others and in going over the beam. Evidently participants overlooked the admonition to "pack light" as local students took 3 vans over and 4 vans back, one of which was just for luggage!

In the Martin Kiwanis Club meeting of May 24, Linda Ramsey and Jessica introduced the Greenfield students who are organizing that club and indicated that several area students were to assume leadership roles in area Key Club divisions within the district.

"Key Leader is an extraordinary opportunity for high school students, ages 14-18, to obtain leadership skills by participating in hands-on experiences that help them understand what it means to hold onto your values," — Linda Ramsey, Key Leader District Committee Chair of the North LAMISSTENN Kiwanis District.

KEY LEADER®



FUN with BUGs!

By Billie Lis and Kim Champagne, Acadiana Lafayette Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Bring Up Grades



Kiwanis of Acadiana Lafayette held their end of year party to honor recipients of Plantation Elementary School's B.U.G. program. The program started in 2010 with Kiwanis volunteers going from classroom to classroom handing out B.U.G. certificates at the end of the 2nd and 3rd nine weeks. At the end of the year, a party is held in the cafeteria for all B.U.G. achievers with ice cream and drawings for summertime prizes. The big prizes, a boy's and a girl's bike as well as two Ripsticks, are drawn last. The students look forward to this all year and the worthiness of this program is seen in the growth over the years. In the 2016-2017 school year, over 315 students in the 3rd- 5th grades were honored for their hard work. What a joy it is to see the smiles of our future leaders as they come up to receive their certificates and prizes and cheer for each other. There's no greater start to your day!



Camellia City in the Community

By Wanda Farbe, Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis Club

Keeping Slidell Beautiful

On April 1st, the **Camellia City AKtion Club** (the K stands for Kiwanis) in Slidell helped to *Keep Slidell Beautiful*. It was a bright, sunny, and cool day, just perfect to get your hands dirty. That's just what they did, as everyone joined in sprucing up the grounds at the Slidell Senior Citizens Facility by weeding, planting, raking and mulching the plants. In the end, it was a job well done.

→ Pictured from left to right: Terri Galiano, Gwen Fleming, TJ Stephens, Alan Branton, Brad Beard, Cindy Sanders, Chrissy Thoele, Carol White, Anthony Corredine, Troy Hedrick, Cherrie Henderson, Mel Carter, D'Andre Randolph and Kiwanis Club Advisor Wanda Farbe.



Terrific Kids Honored



On April 6th, Terrific Kids Awards were presented at Brock Elementary School for February and March of 2017, by the **Kiwanis Club of Camellia City**. Ochsner Medical Center Community Outreach, sponsors the Program. Students are chosen by their teachers to receive the awards because they have shown leadership and good citizenship in school and their community. Students work with their teachers to establish goals to improve behavior, peer relationships, attendance, and schoolwork. Students must reach their goal during a specific time period.



'Cause We Care

By Bob Tillie, Central Louisiana Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis of Central Louisiana continued its signature 'Cause We Care Fair' project in March 2017. "Care Fair" connects kids and families and local nonprofit agencies so: Kids have fun, Kids learn, and Kids connect.

Over 300 kids and family learned about 20 nonprofit agency services at the Alexandria Mall. Agencies include library, medical, educational, fitness, health, art, recreation and safety in an interactive community venue. Kiwanis of Central Louisiana has led this effort for 23 years impacting over 7,500 children and their families. Special appearances by such notables as "Bippo the Hippo" and Cinderella are part of the fun and entertainment. Free t-shirts are provided by Kiwanis of Central Louisiana for kids that complete the tour of booths and events.

Kiwanis of Central Louisiana appreciates the support of the Holy Savior Menard High School Key Club, contributing donors, participating nonprofit agencies, law enforcement, LSUA and the Alexandria Mall.



Surgical Dolls Made with Care

By B.J. Kruse, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club was awarded a \$750 LaMissTenn District Foundation Grant to expand its Surgical Doll Project that has been providing doctors with a child's surgical doll in Children's, East Jefferson, and Ochsner Hospitals to include the Tulane Medical Center. The demand for these surgical dolls has been unprecedented as Dawn Busters was asked to provide approximately 2,000 Surgical Dolls in 2016 - 2017. The women of Dawn Busters sew the surgical dolls from a fabric pattern and the young men and women of the Key Clubs stuff the dolls and label them. Recently, Grace King Key Clubbers participated in a surgical doll stuffing party where they had a fun time creating dolls for the children who will eventually use them in their surgery.



Prayer Breakfast Inspires Community

By Dan Johnson, Greater Covington Kiwanis Club

One of the highlights of our year in the **Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington** is hosting the Covington Community Prayer Breakfast which was held on May 26, 2017 at St. Paul's High School. This annual event is widely attended and sets the tone for acknowledging the blessings and favor of God.

The Objects of Kiwanis speak highly of our centeredness of being Spiritually minded throughout all 6 of our Objects, but, especially in the first two Objects: 1) To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life and 2) To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

Our Kiwanians are seeing the Inspiration of this event as meeting the first two Objects of Kiwanis; the Kiwanis Image is now well known throughout the community; the Impact of seeing God's favor in harmony in relationships, initiatives

to restore health and well-being, financial blessings on projects for its low-income residents and low incidents of crime; and lastly, our Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington Invest our time, money and effort, cheerfully and willingly, to keep this event one of our signature programs that meets all levels of the IPLAN.



Tasting on the Tchefuncte

By Ashleigh D'Addezio, Greater Covington Kiwanis Club



Earlier this month, the **Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis** and the **Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington** in Louisiana co-hosted their 2nd annual Tasting on the Tchefuncte Gala on June 4, 2017. Held at the beautiful Madisonville Maritime Museum, the goal of the event was to raise funds to be do-

nated to other nonprofit organizations in the community. Participants enjoyed live music, homemade jambalaya, and samples from Chafunkta Brewing Company. Along with good food and good company, an exciting raffle and silent auction took place with items generously donated by local businesses.

Due to the generosity of those who participated in the event, both Kiwanis clubs were able to raise \$6,000 collectively. Of that amount, \$3,000 was donated to the West St. Tammany YMCA for their summer youth program and the other \$3,000 was donated to James Storehouse to support their efforts helping youth that age out of the foster care system. This event

was an incredible embodiment of the four elements making up the Kiwanis IPLAN: Inspiration, Impact, Image, and Investment. Because the two Kiwanis clubs came together to pool their resources, they were able to have an immense positive impact on the Mandeville and Covington areas of West St. Tammany Parish.

Both clubs had significant volunteer support from their respective membership to ensure Tasting on the Tchefuncte was a rousing success. Individuals of note who played important roles include Chairpersons Michaelyn Broussard and Sandra Breaux, Dan Trotter, Irvin Breaux and Lt. Governor Dan Johnson.



Hammond Honors Restaurant Owners

By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club

After 29 years of meeting at the landmark Trey Yuen Chinese Restaurant, the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** has a new meeting place, the Mezzanine, located in Downtown Hammond.

The Wong family, founders and operators of Trey Yuen, an eating establishment that drew patrons from a wide area, made the decision to close their business because several family members were ready to retire after operating the restaurant for more than 40 years.

Over the past 29 years, Hammond Kiwanians gathered every Tuesday at noon at Trey Yuen. During that time, the club entertained a countless number of programs and welcomed many interclubs to the restaurant located near the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University. The restaurant closed its doors for the last time on May 31st and the Kiwanis Club held its last meeting there on May 30th.

At their final meeting at Trey Yuen, the Hammond Kiwanis Club presented Joe and John Wong with Walter Zeller Awards for the contributions that the

brothers had made to the club and to the entire community. Hammond Mayor Pete Panepinto presented the brothers with Keys to the City in recognition for what the Wongs have meant to the community since coming to Hammond in the early 1970s.

Joe Morris, president of the Hammond Kiwanis Club, said of leaving Trey Yuen, “this was a very special time for our club. Trey Yuen had been our ‘home’ for so many years that it had come to be associated with Kiwanis. We will miss Trey Yuen and the Wongs, but we will still be a part of their family. Our new meeting place, the Mezzanine, is part of the Cate Street Seafood Station, a restaurant owned and operated by a new generation of the Wong family.”

It was fitting that the final program held at Trey Yuen was presented by the Wong brothers. They traced their roots back to their birth place in South China and recounted how they came to the United States and eventually settled in Hammond where they started their first restau-

rant in a small building. They eventually came to own five restaurants.

The Mezzanine is located in a building once used as a warehouse and dispatch station for the Illinois Central Railroad, now the Canadian National Railroad. The restaurant is located alongside the tracks in the heart of Historic Downtown Hammond, not far from where the first Hammond Kiwanis Club meetings were held when the club was chartered in 1940. For its first meetings, the club met at the old Casa de Fresa Hotel, a Hammond landmark for many years before it was torn down to make way for a modern bank building.

Morris invited Kiwanis clubs from throughout the district to make interclubs with the Hammond Club. “Our new meeting place is very nice, the food is good, and we will continue to have the entertaining and informative programs for which our club is so well known. The welcome mat is out...come visit us,” he concluded.

At ceremonies marking the closing of the landmark Trey Yuen Restaurant in Hammond two of the five Wong brothers who founded a number of restaurants on the North Shore more than 40 years ago were honored for their contributions to the city. Pictured from left are Wayne Allen of the Hammond Kiwanis Club who presented the brothers with Walter Zeller Awards for their civic contributions, Joe Wong, John Wong, Joe Morris, president of the Hammond Kiwanis Club, and Hammond Mayor Pete Panepinto who presented the Wongs with the keys to the city. The restaurant, which was home to the Hammond Kiwanis Club for 29 years, closed its doors on May 31st.



Kenner-North Recognizes Key Clubbers

By Doris Rappold, Kenner-North Kiwanis Club

Kenner-North Kiwanis recently presented its annual Keith Kelley Service Awards to Key Club members for exemplary contributions to their respective school's Key Club. A total of \$3,000 was awarded by the club as each award is accompanied by a scholarship check. Pictured are the recipients and the Kiwanis advisor for that school. From left to right: Anthony Simmons, Sponsored Youth Chair; Irby Bourque and Regina Koorie with Valerie Ellender from Crescent City Christian; Kimberly Acosta from Bonnabel with John Dufrene; and, Alaa Malik and Vicki Lin from Haynes Academy with Gene Katsanis.



Walter Zeller Fellowships Awarded to Orange Grove

By Howard Lock, Orange Grove Kiwanis Club

Walter Zeller was the first donor to contribute to the Kiwanis International Foundation in 1940. His 25 Canadian dollars turned into the Foundation's nest egg. His coins launched the Kiwanis International Foundation's worldwide service efforts. Thousands of donors later, the foundation has grown into a multi-million dollar organization that awards grants to Kiwanis clubs and underwrites life-altering worldwide service projects. On behalf of *The Eliminate Project*, Kiwanis International has chosen to honor Zeller's commitment to service by creating the Walter Zeller Fellowship. Kiwanians can become Walter Zeller Fellows by making a one-time gift or two-year consecutive pledge of \$1,250 to *The Eliminate Project*. Through *The Eliminate Project*, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus - a deadly disease that steals the lives of 34,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. Out of the **Orange Grove Kiwanis Club's** twenty-two members, thirteen have been awarded Walter Zeller Fellowships.



Pictured from left to right: John McCay, III, Past Governor; Barbara McCay, Trustee-Elect Region III; John McCay Jr., Club President; Deb Kurts; Howard Lock, Club Secretary; Regina Langston; and Lucky Langston, Division 14 Lieutenant Governor. Not pictured: Paul Buchanan and Susan McCay.

Spring & Summer FUN with Martin

By Jim Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club

Reeling in the Fun!



Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) had stocked the 6.5 acre lake at Martin Recreation Complex with 350 lbs. of catfish two days before the annual fishing derby sponsored by the **Martin Kiwanis Club**, TWRA and Martin Parks and Recreation. The fishing derby (coinciding with free fishing day in Tennessee) was originated by the Martin Kiwanis Club, but as the years passed,

it has become an effort sponsored by the three groups. Eighty-nine young people and their parents turned out on a sunny morning on June 10th to ply their fishing trade. Unlike the previous year's event, there were a *lot* of fish caught. Prizes were given in 4 age groups for ugliest, heaviest, longest, and shortest fish, most fish caught and "best dressed" (not the fish, but the person!). If a prize were

given for the youngest person there it would be for a 1-year old! For the oldest you would have to look among the Kiwanis crew.



Decorated Easter Egg Contest

For 25 years the **Martin Kiwanis Club** has sponsored a "decorated egg contest" in conjunction with Martin Parks and Recreation's Easter egg hunt. Unlike last year's bone-chilling cold, April 7th dawned bright, sunny and warm. Anna Clark, Mary Elizabeth Bell, Anita Bell and Jayne Parrish organized Westview Key Club students to register and judge entries and to serve as couriers to the field announcers when winners for each age group were announced. As one key club member said, "This is way cooler than pancakes!"



Memphis Reaches Out

By Chris Triplett & Mary Wilder, Memphis Kiwanis Club

Kingsbury Elementary Power Lunch

The **Kiwanis Club of Memphis** has teamed with Kingsbury Elementary, an inner-city Shelby County School, to develop the Power Lunch Program. The Program allows Kiwanis Club members to read once a week to Kingsbury Elementary students during their lunch break. The majority of Kingsbury Elementary students are from low-to-moderate income households, where English is not the first language. The program provides students a one-on-one session with club members reading to the students in English. The program started in February 2017 and ran through the end of the school semester in May. According to the school's administrative staff, the program is already having a positive impact on the student's ability to read and comprehend books at their grade level. More importantly, club members have established bonds with the students, which many club members have commented it has been a joy for the reader as much as it is for the students.

The program was organized by Chris Triplett and the following members read to the students weekly: Brian Collins, Dianne Polly, Grady Frisby, Ham Smythe, John Horne, John Lawrence, Josh Bailey, Ken Jones, Mary Claire Borys, Sam Cantor, Steve Zatechka and Tom Williams. The program also had volunteers that filled in when the weekly readers could not make it: Josh Bailey, Mary Wilder, Bryce Haugsdahl and Sam Cole.



Building Independence for Brianna

On May 20th over 20 **Memphis Kiwanis Club** members and 6 Memphis Habitat for Humanity staff and volunteers constructed a wheelchair ramp for Brianna, a 15 year old student in the Shelby County School System who was disabled from birth and has difficulty walking distances. She will always use a wheelchair. Mary Claire Borys, Kiwanis member, was our ramp leader. This is a new program for the Downtown Memphis Kiwanis. The volunteers started at 8 a.m. and were finished by 1 p.m. Brianna had recently received her first motorized chair and is thrilled with her ramp. The ramp is her bridge to independence and the world.



Serving a Community in Need

By Cordara Newton, New Orleans Kiwanis Club

On Thursday, May 18th, **North Shreveport Kiwanis Club** members volunteered at the weekly community meal at Common Ground. Common Ground is a community center that aims to meet the needs of the Cedar Grove neighborhood of Shreveport, LA through enriching programs. This area of town is often viewed as being unsafe, which can create hesitation in individuals stepping up to assist. We did not let this stand in the way of our chapter's commitment to serving the youth of the community.

Our chapter members went above and beyond to serve at this event. These Kiwanians successfully prepared plated dinners for over 100 children and adults in need. We were told by the head of the program that this meal is one of the most popular initiatives the center offers to the neighborhood. This weekly event provides individuals with a healthy balanced meal as well as access to the food pantry and clothing closet. Common Ground tirelessly works to provide several opportunities to build reconciliation for all of the lives they touch.

Participating in this meal was a rewarding experience for our chapter. It reminded us how blessed we are to have basic necessities. Our eyes were open and we were able to refocus on the mission of Kiwanis International. Children are our future and opportunities like this allow the North Shreveport Kiwanis Club the chance to show young people that their lives are valuable. We enjoyed this experience so much we unanimously voted to make this an annual service event for our club. This partnership will benefit our club in feeding the body and minds of the next generation.



Making Kids Feel Royal

By Lisa Dart, Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis



On Saturday, June 17th, the **Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club** volunteered to help “Royal Family Kids” set up camp for 48 children ages 6 to 12 who are in Foster Care. This is our second year helping this worthwhile organization.

Eight members of our club arrived around 1 p.m. and were immediately put to work under the supervision of the amazing couple that runs the program, John & Julie Wondergem. We started by unloading the food and setting up the kitchen and pantry. As we worked the Wondergem’s explained some of the events that they plan for the kids. Most have never had a birthday party so a special day is set aside for a group birthday party where each child receives a present and their own cup cake.

Next we headed to the storage area

where we helped unload boxes and distribute items to the game room and arts and craft area. Here we discovered “the mailboxes” where letters are distributed to the kids every evening before bedtime that have been written by their counselors exemplifying how special they are.

Next we split into groups with one group heading to the cabins to help set up the beds. This was very special as each bed has a blanket placed upon it, along with a pillowcase, that are embroidered with their name, giving them each something they can take with them that they can call their own.

The other group headed to the Chapel where they learned that the program theme this year, which is always based on a Biblical theme, was “Traveling with Joseph.” Our members helped decorate the stage with animals

and cars, complete with hats, so the children could imagine a safari through the jungle as they traveled with Joseph.

There is one counselor for every two children whose only job is to make the children feel like “royalty.” Last year our member, Preston Christian was one of these remarkable counselors.

Around 4 p.m. we had most everything set for the arrival of the campers. We met up with John and Julie who gave us more details of the week ahead and left us with the final night activity where each child is given a rock on which they paint an unfavorable memory or experience from their past. Before leaving camp, they throw the rock into a pond to symbolize the throwing away of negative experiences and moving forward into positivity. Then, they receive a bracelet with words of affirmation to remind them to keep their heads held high.

Julie thanked us again as we left saying “the money you collect every meeting by passing the bucket around is greatly appreciated and truly helps.” John extended his thanks by saying “You guys have been terrific! Your assistance today helped make setting up a lot easier and faster.”

Royal Family Kids is an incredible program helping foster children one child at a time. After spending the day with this astounding couple and experiencing the program first hand, we all left with a tear in our eye and were thankful to be part of such an uplifting event. This is a project our club plans to continue to support.

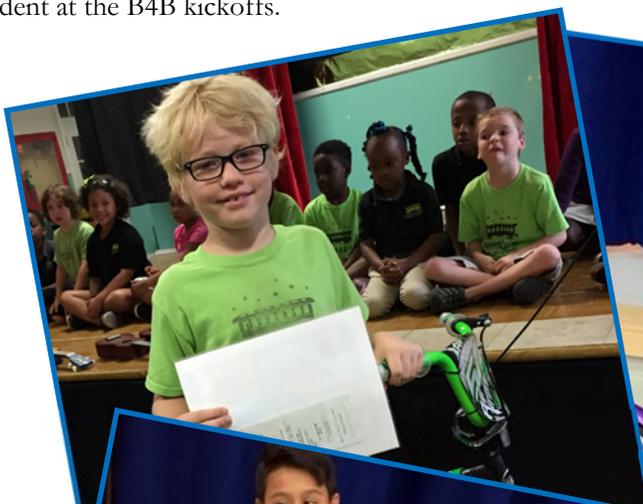
Encouraging Literacy

By Deidre Charlot, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain sponsored Bikes for Books (B4B), a reading initiative at five New Orleans elementary schools during the 2016/2017 school year. Students voluntarily read age-appropriate books and completed book reports. The Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain conducted B4B with fifth and sixth graders at Fannie C. Williams Charter School and with second and fifth graders at Gentilly Terrace Charter, Homer A. Plessy Community, Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary, and Mildred Osborne Charter Schools. To further underscore the importance of reading, the Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain distributed free books to each student at the B4B kickoffs.

Each student who completed at least five book reports received a certificate of participation. Students who completed at least ten book reports also received a \$5 McDonald's gift card. In each grade, the student who read the most books received a new bicycle, bike helmet, and bike lock. Students had to complete at least ten book reports to be eligible to win a bike. Winning totals ranged from 18 to 68 books.

About half of the eligible students participated in this voluntary reading initiative. About 20 percent of the participants read ten or more books. Among the five schools, students read more than 1,600 books.



Providing Tornado Relief

By Myra M. Lewis, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club President

The Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain and the Kiwanis Club of Big Easy joined forces under LAMIS-STENN grants to provide relief to victims of the tornado that touched down in New Orleans East February 7, 2017. In that unusual urban event, an EF3 tornado traversed a wide swath in the area, damaging dozens of residential structures. Many of the houses, some of which had been rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, sustained exterior damage, including extensive roof destruction. Some of the houses were leveled and must be completely rebuilt. Months later, many residents are living in partially damaged houses. Some residents have not received the assistance from FEMA that would allow them to repair and return to their homes. With the cessation of hotel support through FEMA, some impacted residents are living with relatives or friends and remain under duress.

Our joint grant effort is designed to provide a meal to those residents, to



assess their current needs, to make a small contribution to relieving those needs, and to generally provide a visible presence of Kiwanis members to assure these residents that Kiwanis cares. The June 3rd event was held at New Orleans Bible Fellowship Church. The volunteers served 156 meals and accepted 40 applications from impacted households. Twenty volunteers

from Kiwanis Pontchartrain and Big Easy helped to prepare and serve the meals and to process the applications. Further assistance to these residents is pending. An effort will be made to acquire matching funds from retailers such as Walmart, Walgreens and Winn Dixie, all whom have retail stores within the impacted zone.



The Golden Rule Awards

By Division 12 Lieutenant Governor Eva Abate, Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

The Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club, held its annual GOLDEN RULE luncheon on May 2, 2017 in conjunction with the Multi-Club meeting. Approximately 80 members and guest were in attendance. The meeting was led by Kathy Sonnier and Lieutenant Governor Eva Abate. The guest speaker was Damian Boudreaux. Betty Raglin was MC for the Golden Rule Finalist presentations.

The Golden Rule Finalist were selected from 24 individual winners for the 2016-2017 school year. The Finalists are: Malia Hasty, John J. Johnson 2nd grader; Ethan Shows, Moss Bluff 4th grader; and MyKailah Moore, Henry Heights 5th grader.

Malia was nominated with these words: In spite of having Cerebral Palsy, Malia is always there to help others and is so considerate. She always works hard, tries hard, and is so eager to please everyone. She is pleasant and a joy to teach.

Ethan was nominated by his teacher. Ethan is very loving and affectionate to his family, his friends, and his teachers. One example of putting others before himself came to light when he pushed his little sister out of the way of a moving car. He saved her from being harmed; instead he was hurt. His act of bravery proves that Ethan treats others with kindness and puts others before himself.

MyKailah’s teacher nominated her with the following comments: MyKailah asked to give a Christmas gift to the entire class. “How in the world can this child give something to 40 plus children?” MyKailah began to sing a sweet, gentle, acapella version of a beautiful Christmas song. Everyone listened absorbedly. The teacher learned a lesson that day - Christmas is not about money. MyKailah also sang a sweet, gentle, acapella version of a religious song for Kiwanis. Many hearts were touched that day and many tears were shed.

Clubs in attendance were: Southwest Contraband, Lake Charles, South Lake Charles, Lake Charles North, Jennings, West Cal, Sulphur and Aktion Club. *Pictured above with family is Malia and below from left to right is Ethan and MyKailah.*



50 Year Legion of Honor

By Tom Osburn, Vicksburg Kiwanis Club



Pictured from left to right: Robert Quimby with family members Billy Joe, son; Marquida, wife; and Cindy Higgins, daughter.

Robert Quimby was busy in 1967! He moved to Vicksburg and started work as an accountant for the Sisters of Mercy Hospital, he joined the **Vicksburg Kiwanis Club** and he joined the First Methodist Protestant Church. He served as Club President for the Vicksburg Kiwanis Club in 1972 and as Lieutenant Governor for Division 15 in 1975. Mr. Quimby is very involved in the club's annual Chili Feast, Area 10 Special Olympics Track and Field Events and in various reading projects. Fred Peyton did a great job of recapping some of his accomplishments as we presented Mr. Quimby with a 50 Year Legion of Honor certificate and pin. We were pleased to have his wife of almost 60 years, Marquida, his daughter Cindy Higgins and his son Billy Joe join us in the recognition. His sons Ernie and Shane were unable to attend.

Club President Receives Prestigious Award

By Laura Gilliland, Red Stick Kiwanis Club

Red Stick Kiwanis members in Baton Rouge, Louisiana congratulate their president Thomas E. Gibbs for receiving the 2017 Pro Bono Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association on May 23, 2017. Tom has been happily married to Karolyn Landry Gibbs for nearly 44 years, and they have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. He graduated from the LSU Law School in 1975. He has served the Baton Rouge area as a solo practitioner for the past 41 years, primarily in the area of Family Law.

Tom has been involved in volunteer activities through his church, his children's schools, the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and numerous nonprofit organizations. He currently serves the Baton Rouge Family Court as a volunteer mediator, with emphasis on helping pro se litigants resolve their differences while saving the Court valuable time. He is also a long-time volunteer with Kiwanis International, seeking to improve the lives of children locally and throughout the world.



Thomas E. Gibbs and Karolyn Landry Gibbs

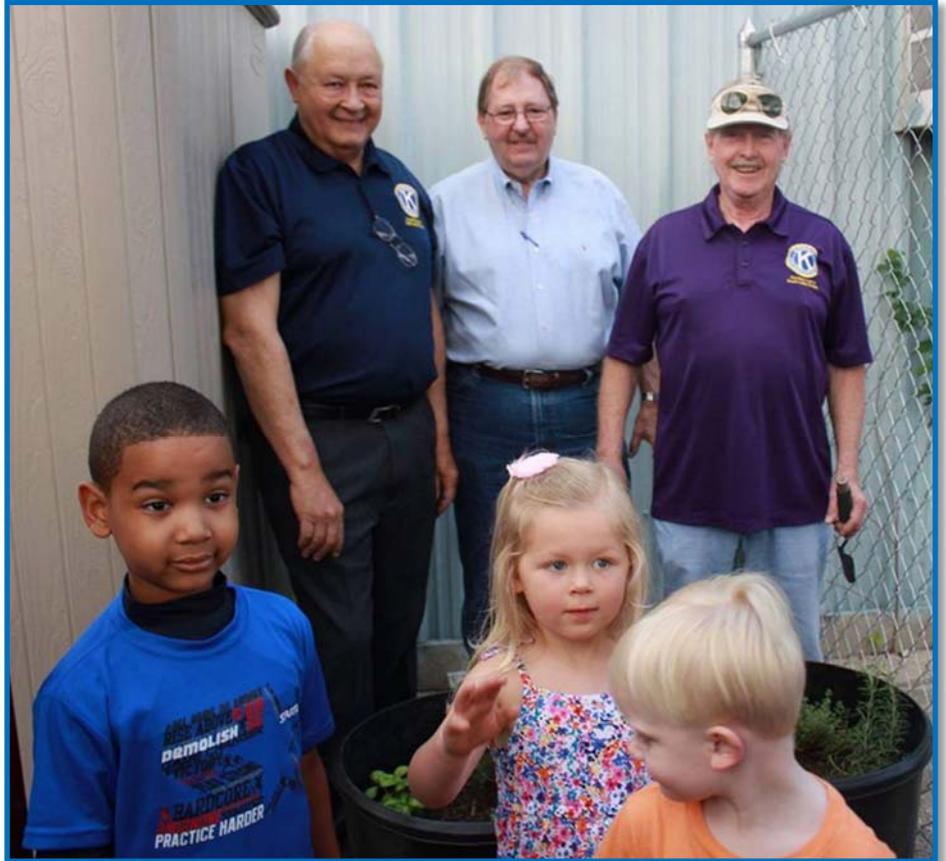
Sprouting Good Character

South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The Kiwanis Club of South Lake Charles helped create a therapeutic herb garden for the kids of the St. Nicholas Center for Children. The children had a blast learning all about the plants, gardening and playing in the dirt.

I had a "Kiwanis" moment while doing this project. I took some leaves from one of the plants, broke them up and held them under one little boy's nose and said "smells good doesn't it?" The counselor said he doesn't speak. The little boy smiled a big grin and said "yeah!"

*~ Dr. George W. Hutchinson,
Master Gardener*



Pictured from left to right are South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club members: Dr. George Hutchinson, Vic Miesel, Louis Haxthausen.

St. Nicholas Center for Children is a non-profit center transforming the lives of children with autism, developmental delays and neurological disorders by providing therapy and family support in a fun loving educational environment. St. Nicholas Center offers a wide range of services including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Skills training, and Barton Dyslexia Tutoring.

The South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club along with help from Greengate Garden completed the herb garden on March 28th. Both the children and the Kiwanians "sprouted good character" from this project.



Children at the St. Nicholas Center are all smiles as they plant their therapeutic herb garden with help from South Lake Charles Kiwanis members.

Every Child A Swimmer

Acadiana Homeschool Key Club Facebook Page

Thanks to the **St. Martinville Kiwanis Club** and **Acadiana Homeschool Key Club**, kindergarteners at the St. Martinville City Pool had a blast attending swimming lessons for 1 hour a day, 5 days a week in the *Every Child a Swimmer* program in May. The main focus of the program, is to make sure children have a serious chance at survival in or near water. The program reduces the fear of water by teaching children how to first, float with a life jacket and secondly, once they're comfortable in the water, to get them floating on their backs. Living in a community surrounded by water, it is important for children to learn the basic skills of survival in water. The program is sponsored by the St. Martinville Kiwanis Club and members of the Acadiana Homeschool volunteer.



Hard at Work in the Community

Jennings Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On April 1st, **Jennings Kiwanis Club** members teamed up to build a swing set for a Habitat for Humanity House. Habitat for Humanity seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope for those in need. Homes are built using volunteer labor and Habitat makes no profit on the sales.



Kids Need Kiwanis

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On April 25th, **Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge** members treated students from the School of the Deaf to an LSU softball game. Club members also enjoyed volunteering to help with the McMains Children's Developmental Center's Annual Canoe Trip at Tickfaw State Park on April 29th. The Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge stays true to the mission of Kiwanis International by improving the world one child and one community at a time.



A FUN Time for Terrific Kids!

Alexandria Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The **Alexandria Kiwanis Club** hosted an end of the school year outing with some Terrific Kids from Oak Hill at the Kiwanis Camp on April 28th.



Camp Bearable

Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

On May 21st, the **Kiwanis Club of Camellia City, Slidell** had the pleasure of cooking breakfast for Camp Bearable, a weekend-long grief camp for children that have experienced the loss of a loved one made possible by the Hospice Foundation of the South. Every year Camellia City Kiwanis raises money to be able to provide breakfast and Kiwanis Teddy bears to each camper.



A Baby Shower for the Community!

Southwest Contraband Club Facebook Page

The **Kiwanis Club of Southwest Contraband** held a Community Baby Shower on Saturday, May 13th and it was a huge success! The club was able to give to two organizations this year, Lighthouse Ministries, Inc. and Pink Life! Lighthouse Ministries is a non-profit organization geared to ministering and assisting unwed mothers and their unborn child. Pink Life! is a non-profit organization that serves young women, who face adversity and hopelessness during and after pregnancy.



Feeding Our Youth

Union City Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

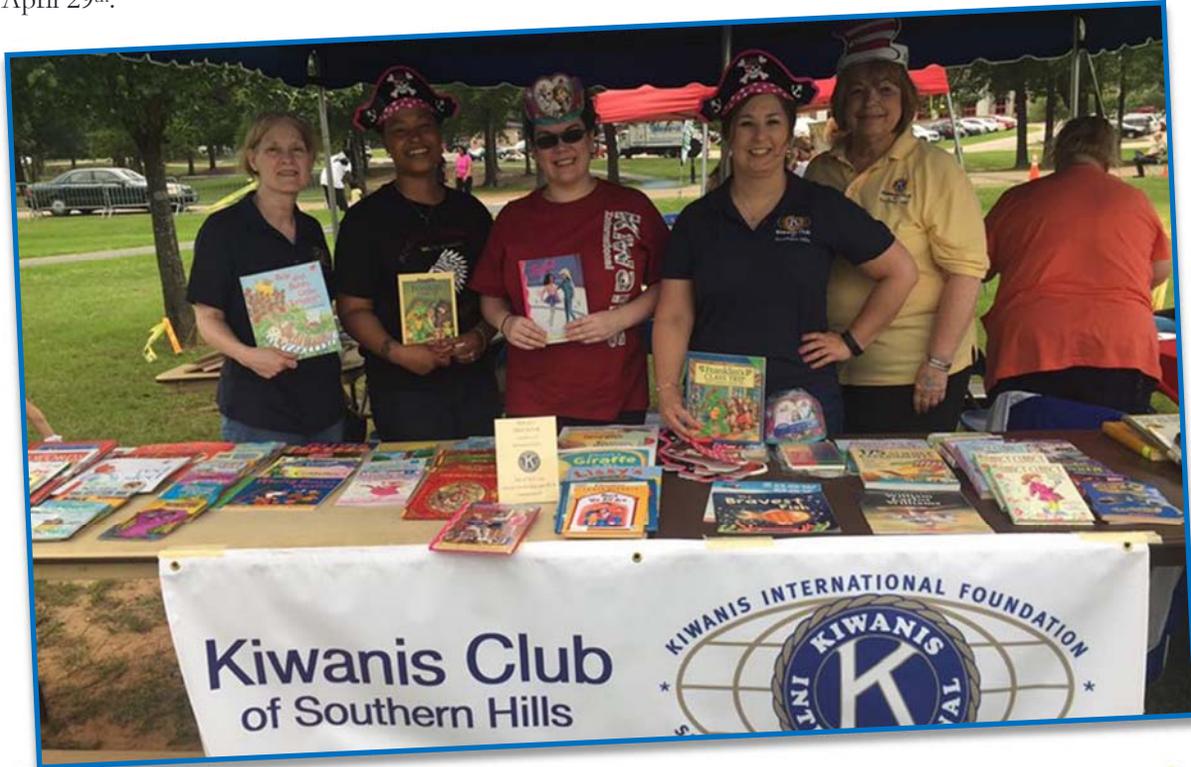
The **Union City Kiwanis Club** had quite an eventful meeting on April 20th! The club was able to donate money from a grant received from the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International District Foundation in order to help Trudy's Cafe feed the youth in the community. Trudy's Café feeds kids ages 0-18 for free Monday-Friday. The café feeds approximately 500 children per day. The Union City Kiwanis Club is contributing to the summer program that feeds children 3 times a day. The program provides a bus that delivers food to different neighborhoods during summertime.



Giving Away Books to Children

Southern Hills Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The **Kiwanis Club of Southern Hills** gave away books to children at the Southern Hills Music in the Park festival on Saturday, April 29th.



Taking Care of Our Kids

Memphis Kiwanis Club Facebook Page

The **Kiwanis Club of Memphis** worked hard packing food for hungry children at the Mid-South Food Bank on April 29th.



Growing Knowledge

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club Facebook Page and Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Facebook Page

On May 10th, the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club** celebrated the lovely school garden created by the J. Q. Adams Builders Club.



The **Kiwanis Club of Northshore Mandeville** helped create fabulous gardens at Marigny Elementary School on April 1st.



Mark Your Calendar!

Louisiana Mississippi West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International



Mid-Winter Conference Natchez, Mississippi February 16-17, 2018

Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, District Bulletin Editor

Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: 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 is the deadline for the next issue:

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.

AND REMEMBER . . . THE BEST ACTION SHOT WINS THE COVER!

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

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