



# Kiwaniis® Kourier

## ALABAMA DISTRICT

Winter 2023

Published by Alabama Kiwanis Foundation

23 pages

# Prattville meeting Feb. 17-18

By **Patrice Stewart**

Kiwaniis Kourier editor

The president-elect of Kiwanis International, Katrina Baranko from Albany, Georgia, will be the interclub luncheon keynote speaker at the Alabama District's Midwinter Conference in Prattville Feb. 17-18.

Inspiring speakers and educational sessions plus fun, games and a Mardi Gras theme await Kiwanians at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Prattville.

The registration fee runs from \$100 to \$150, depending on how many meals you sign up for. The \$100 fee includes the Saturday interclub luncheon. Add \$25 for Friday's evening buffet dinner and \$25 for Saturday's networking breakfast.

Online registration links can be found on the home page of the district's website at [alabama.kiwaniis.org](http://alabama.kiwaniis.org) or directly at these links: tickets, [tinyurl.com/midwinter23-tickets](http://tinyurl.com/midwinter23-tickets); and hotel, [tinyurl.com/midwinter23-hotel](http://tinyurl.com/midwinter23-hotel).

The Kiwanis hotel rate is \$145. Deadlines are Feb. 6 for hotel and Feb. 10 for conference registration.

On Friday, the district board will meet at 2 p.m., and a celebration dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Rogena Woods-



**Katrina Baranko, Rogena Woods-Mitchell, Byron Mullican**

Mitchell of Pascagoula, Mississippi, governor-elect of the Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee District, will speak; she has helped build many new Kiwanis clubs in Alabama.

Immediate Past Governor Scott Sims will recognize clubs, divisions and Kiwanians earning "Distinguished"

**(See PRATTVILLE, Page 4)**

## Eagerness to share

Kiwanis projects help children by teaching them generosity, among other benefits. Pete Willis, a member of the Decatur Kiwanis Club, accepts donations from two boys shopping at Walmart on Dec. 10. Many Kiwanians in the Alabama District volunteered as Salvation Army bell-ringers. Holiday photos are on Pages 16, 19, 20, 21 and 22.



## 'Amazing growth trajectory': New clubs adding up

The Alabama District's club-building momentum is continuing in 2022-23, with two new clubs organized before the holidays and four more scheduled.

Eight new clubs — one per division — were added in 2021-22. The Alabama District led North America with the highest net positive percentage membership growth at 3.9 percent.

With the two organized in the fall and four more planned, the district is on track for six and is looking at locations to add more clubs. More clubs and members mean

**(See NEW CLUBS, Page 12)**

Register now for the Midwinter Conference in Prattville Feb. 17-18, 2023

# First-quarter update on growth, service

Hello, Alabama Kiwanians. Happy New Year! I hope this finds you safe and well!

I am honored and excited to serve as governor of the Alabama District for 2022-23. I am thoroughly enjoying my year so far!

I have visited several clubs and would like the opportunity to visit yours. Please let me know when you are available.

First, I would like to thank each of you for the service you provide in your community, supporting our children and families.

With the first quarter behind us, I continue to work with our membership team, led by Past Governor Bob Brown and the lieutenant governors, on building clubs and increasing membership in Alabama.



## From the Governor

By Mary Hoerlein

The following is an update from the first quarter:

- The Talladega-Lincoln club was formed officially in October 2022. Lt. Governor Marvin Wagoner from Division 4 led this effort.

- The Central Shelby County club was organized officially in November 2022, with Division 3 Lt. Governor Bill Hart leading the effort.

Congratulations to these two new clubs and all those involved who served these areas!

The following club builds are scheduled in the first part of 2023:

- Tuskegee, Lt. Governor Jack Galassini, Feb. 14-16.
- Hueytown, Lt. Governor Bill Hart, Feb. 28-March 2.
- Albertville, Lt. Governor Sonde Coleman, April 11-13.
- Livingston, Lt. Governor Seth Edgil, May 16-18.

I will provide updates on club openings as they occur.



Kiwanis Governor Mary Hoerlein has been busy visiting clubs around the state and helping build two new clubs. The left photo shows her helping sign up Circuit Clerk Brian York (center) for the Talladega-Lincoln club, accompanied by Past Governor and Membership Chairman Bob Brown (left). During recruiting for the Kiwanis Club of Central Shelby, right photo, Hoerlein is shown with signee Sonya Smith Holt (center) and Governor-elect Rogena Woods-Mitchell of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District, who has been helping build clubs in Alabama.



## Goals and reminders

Remember my goals for the year:

- Let's continue this momentum of building membership and clubs to keep our district strong. The January KI report showed the Alabama District was plus-30 members. Remember the more members we have, the more we can do for Alabama's children.

- Continue the great club experience with service projects, fundraisers, great relationships, great speakers and having fun!

- Support the Service Leadership Programs: K-Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Clubs, Key Leader, Circle K and Aktion Clubs. These leaders are the future of Kiwanis! (Ensure that their advisers have background checks and that the Youth Protection Guidelines are being presented to their members.)

- Generously support our Kiwanis International Children's Fund and Alabama Kiwanis Foundation with your donations!

## Websites, brochures

Here are a few other reminders:

- Send dues and election reports to Kiwanis International.

- If your club needs help with Facebook pages and/or websites, District Communications Officer Brian Rodgers can assist you. Email him at [brianrodgers@gmail.com](mailto:brianrodgers@gmail.com).

- Club brochures designed uniquely for each club will help attract new members. Kiwanis International has several options; check this link: [www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/member-outreach/kiwanis-brochures](http://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/member-outreach/kiwanis-brochures).

- Be sure your club's honors and projects are included in the Kiwanis Kourier, the Alabama District's quarterly online newsletter. Email Kourier photos and articles to Editor Patrice Stewart at [kiwaniskourier@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniskourier@gmail.com).

## See you at Midwinter

I look forward to seeing Kiwanians from all over the state at our annual Midwinter Conference on Feb. 17 and 18, 2023. We will meet in Prattville at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

A fun evening with dinner, games and awards is planned for Friday. Saturday will feature more great speakers, educational workshops and an inter-club luncheon. Registration and the agenda are on the Alabama Kiwanis District [website](http://www.kiwanis.org). Please sign up!

Finally, let's continue having a great year. Always remember to have fun!

Please let me know if you need assistance or have questions. Thank you for all you do for the children in Alabama!

# Kiwanis-sponsored state spelling bee scheduled March 18 in Birmingham

The 2023 Alabama Spelling Bee, a signature project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, in Birmingham.

The statewide bee is set to start at noon in University Hall at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

According to Susan McDougal of Huntsville, executive director for the Alabama Spelling Bee, more than 730 schools across Alabama have registered for the Alabama Spelling Bee program (the school registration deadline was Dec. 31).

There are 56 counties represented, with Kiwanis clubs sponsoring four of their respective county spelling bees.



**Susan McDougal**

She gave some tips on how Kiwanians can help in their home areas.

Two counties do not have a county sponsor: Marengo and Conecuh.

"If your club is in one of these two counties or close by, please consider sponsoring the local bee to give your club exposure, along with serving the students in your area," McDougal said.

"If you already have someone coordinating the bee in your county, reach out to that county coordinator and offer prizes to the winners, offer to be judges or serve in another official capacity, and encourage schools in your area to participate next year by offering to pay the registration fee," she said.



To find out who the Spelling Bee coordinator is in your area, visit [k01.site.kiwanis.org/spellingbee](http://k01.site.kiwanis.org/spellingbee).

Contact information for McDougal and other Spelling Bee information also can be found at that site.

"This is a signature project for the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, and we would love to see more participation from the clubs in our district," McDougal said.



## Kiwanis International Convention Minneapolis, Minnesota

Cultivate the skills that will help you nurture tomorrow's leaders. Learn ways to coach members of Service Leadership Programs. Discover service projects that increase your impact. Expand your club's fundraising methods. Explore all the ways you can prepare young leaders for the future — and the impact they'll make in the world.

**Attend virtually or in person, June 21-24, 2023**

Registration opens in February. Meanwhile, read about speakers, elections, schedule, entertainment, hotels and more at [kiwanis.org/convention](http://kiwanis.org/convention).

**Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is April 3, 2023**

## Prattville

(From Page 1)

status. The K-Family game night with prizes will follow.

The 8:30 a.m. Saturday opening session will include Service Leadership Program updates and a proposed district bylaws amendment, followed by a talk on "Strengthening the Club through Membership" by Rhonda Vrell of North Carolina, area director for Kiwanis International.

Attendees can choose from several topics during two breakout sessions at 10 and 11 a.m. Saturday:

■ "Strengthening the Club through Effective Service Projects and Fundraisers," with Rogena Woods-Mitchell and Rhonda Vrell.

■ "Strengthening the Club through

Effective Service Leadership Programs," with Peck Fox, Alabama District Circle K administrator; Marla Hines, Key Club administrator; and Lesia Woody, K-Kids/Builders Clubs administrator.

■ "Strengthening the Club through Membership Retention," with Byron Mullican, Kiwanis International Membership Committee-Retention and immediate past governor of the Georgia District.

KI President-elect Baranko will speak at the noon interclub luncheon, which will include a roll call of clubs. From 1:45 to 3 p.m., individual gatherings for divisions, past governors, and the 2023-24 leadership team are scheduled.

(See complete agenda, Page 5.)

Alabama Kiwanis Governor Mary Hoerlein wants Kiwanians from around the state to sign up for the

Midwinter Conference in Prattville. "And plan to bring four or more from your club for our Feb. 18 interclub luncheon," she said.

New club members, especially, can learn a lot, while those with years of membership experience can pick up tips on strengthening their clubs.

"By bringing in top Kiwanis International officers, speakers and workshop leaders, we are making it possible for you to get ideas that work for service projects, youth programs, and member recruitment and retention from those with plenty of experience," the governor said.

"You will get lots of inspiration and enjoy meeting Kiwanians from around the state, so register soon to attend, and also promote this Midwinter Conference in your home club."



## Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

Published by **Alabama District Kiwanis Foundation**  
Address news, photos and other correspondence to:

**Patrice W. Stewart, Editor**

[kiwaniskourier@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniskourier@gmail.com) • 256-303-1668

*Steve Stewart assists with design and technology.*

**Governor:** Mary Hoerlein, Auburn club, prathmh@auburn.edu

**Governor-elect:** Keith McKendall, Indian Springs Village club, k\_mckendall@yahoo.com

**Vice Governor:** Paul England, Monroeville club, pengland@frontiernet.net

**Past Governor:** Scott Sims, Homewood-Mountain Brook club, scott.sims@dentons.com

**District Secretary:** Tammy Driskill, Gadsden club (dist\_sec@alkiwanis.org)

**District Office:** P.O. Box 8505, Gadsden, AL 35902, 205-945-1334

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

## Kiwanis governors meet in Las Vegas

Alabama District Governor Mary Hoerlein and others got Kiwanis updates at a Midyear Governors Conference Jan. 13-14 in Las Vegas, Nevada. From left are Georgia Governor Darryl Gumz, Hoerlein, Kentucky-Tennessee Governor Dwight Watt, Carolinas Governor Mary Winfree, Kiwanis International President-elect Katrina Baranko and Capital District Governor Jennifer Wolff.

## AGENDA

# Alabama District Midwinter Conference 2022

## Montgomery Marriott Conference Center at Prattville

### Friday, Feb. 17

**2-3 p.m.**

**2022-2023 District board meeting**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Conference check-in**

**6 p.m.**

***Laissez les bons temps rouler!***

**Celebration dinner** (ticketed event)

Welcome by District Governor Mary Hoerlein

Introduction of guests

Invocation

Mardi Gras buffet dinner

**6:30 p.m.**

Recognition of 2021-2022 Distinguished Clubs, Divisions and Kiwanians — Immediate Past Governor Scott Sims

Special guest and keynote speaker Rogena Woods-Mitchell, governor-elect of LaMissTenn District

**7:15 p.m.**

**Kiwanis Family Game Night** with prizes!

### Saturday, Feb. 18

**8 a.m.**

**Networking breakfast** (ticketed event)

**8:30 a.m.**

**Opening session**

Welcome by District Governor Mary Hoerlein

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of guests

Service Leadership Program updates

Proposed District bylaws amendment

**9 a.m.**

**Strengthening the Club through Membership**

Rhonda Vrell, Kiwanis International area director

**9:45 a.m.**

Break

**10 a.m.**

**Breakout sessions**

1. **Strengthening the Club through Effective Service Projects and Fundraisers** — Rogena Woods-Mitchell, governor-elect of LaMissTenn District; and Rhonda Vrell, Kiwanis International area director

2. **Strengthening the Club through Effective Service Leadership Programs** — Peck Fox, Circle K International administrator; Marla

Hines, Key Club administrator; and Lesia Woody, KKids/Builders Clubs administrator

3. **Strengthening the Club through Membership Retention** — Byron Mullican, Kiwanis International Membership Committee-Retention and immediate past governor of Georgia District

**10:45 a.m.**

Break

**11 a.m.**

**Breakout sessions**

1. **Strengthening the Club through Effective Service Projects and Fundraisers** — Rogena Woods-Mitchell, governor-elect of LaMissTenn District; and Rhonda Vrell, Kiwanis International area director

2. **Strengthening the Club through Effective Service Leadership Programs** — Peck Fox, Circle K International administrator; Marla Hines, Key Club administrator; and Lesia Woody, KKids/Builders Clubs administrator

3. **Strengthening the Club through Membership Retention** — Byron Mullican, Kiwanis International Membership Committee-Retention and immediate past governor of Georgia District

**11:45 a.m.**

Break

**Noon-1:30 p.m.**

**Interclub luncheon**

Invocation

Luncheon buffet

Roll call

Keynote Address by Kiwanis International President-elect Katrina Baranko, Georgia District

Past Governors' Award reminder — Past Governor Bob Brown

2023 International Convention — Minneapolis, Minnesota

2023 District Convention — to be announced

**1:45-3 p.m.**

**Past district governors' gathering**

**1:45-3 p.m.**

District Division gatherings

**1:45-3 p.m.**

**2023-24 District Leadership Team gathering**

**3 p.m.**

Adjourn

# Like father, like son: Kiwanis service has become a Bradley family tradition

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

Civic club service can become a family tradition. Just take a look at the Bradleys' involvement in civic work in the Birmingham area.

David Bradley is a 43-year charter member of the Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club who has served in almost every position, including president twice, vice president, and secretary. Most importantly, he taught his son to serve, too.

At various times, David headed fundraising, pancake breakfast, golf tournament and other committees, as well as serving on the club board from 1979 to 2019 and having perfect attendance many of those years. At the state level, he served on the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation board and was annual club giving chair in 2019-22.

## Different roles, different clubs

Sometimes David and his son, Owen Bradley, a Kiwanian for 20 years, work on fundraising or other service projects for the same purpose but through different roles and different clubs.

David's club last year spearheaded what started as a local project to help Maranathan Academy get a library. Other Kiwanians joined in, and soon Owen, a member of Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis, headed up the first Kiwanis "Speed Stampede" run through Homewood as a fundraiser for Maranathan.

Several years ago they were members of the same club, when Owen was a dual member of the Hoover club while serving as a lieutenant governor.

## Both started with Key Club

Both father and son were involved in Key Club. David, now 72, attended Gadsden High School, where his Key Club supported the citywide Gadsden Kiwanis Pancake Day. That experience was "a great introduction to Kiwanis," he said.

Owen, 43, said, "Some of my earliest memories are going to Kiwanis service projects with my dad, like his Hoover club's Pancake Day at Green Valley Elementary School and their Christmas tree lot fundraiser." Later Owen was a Key Club member and officer at Hoover High School, and since then he has been a member of four different Kiwanis clubs.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Alabama, Owen began work in the banking field and, in 2003, joined the Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa. When he moved to Birmingham in 2006, he first joined the Birmingham Metro club, which is no longer active, and then the Homewood-Mountain Brook club about 2015. He served as president of both clubs.

For Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis, he also has been Pancake Day sponsorship chairman, as well as race director for the Speed Stampede that raised funds for Maranathan Academy (see related story in this Kiwanis Kourier).



**David Bradley, left, and son Owen Bradley both have given many hours of service to Kiwanis.**

That event was of special interest to Peter Mancuso of New York, a runner himself, who participated while visiting Birmingham in February 2022 to address the Alabama Midwinter Conference in his role as president of Kiwanis International.

"It was very moving to be able to raise over \$10,000 for Maranathan Academy, which provides funding for critically at-risk children to have a chance at a real education," said Owen, who is a corporate commercial real estate banker for Renasant Bank.

"Giving back to people in need around your local community is truly how to make the world a better place," he said. "In high school, I lettered in community service as well as soccer, so community service has been a part of my life for 25 years."

## A family pastime

How did Kiwanis become a father-son activity?

"Being a good Kiwanian does take some time," said David. "From an early age, Owen saw my Kiwanis involvement, and I included him in Kiwanis activities when appropriate.

**(See FATHER AND SON, Page 12)**



The Maranathan Academy project began with the Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club wanting to do something to help the school. After fundraising, some Kiwanians and helpers got to work with saws, wood and nails. The shelves were installed, finishing touches were added, books were bought, and students could browse in their new library.

# How a small private school became a statewide project for Kiwanians

*A year ago at the Alabama Midwinter Conference in Birmingham, Kiwanians met the executive director and several students of Maranathan Academy, a small private school that helps at-risk students. Members of Hoover-Metro Kiwanis and others were already helping the school, and statewide fundraising started at that conference. Deborah O'Hara, a past president of the Hoover club who won the 2021-22 Past Governors Award for her support of Maranathan, takes a look back at the service project's beginning a year ago and gives an update.*

**By Deb O'Hara**

Past President, Hoover-Metro Kiwanis

I first met the founder and director of Maranathan Academy, a small, private school for critically at-risk stu-

dents, about three years ago. Her name was Donna Dukes, and when she spoke to our Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club, I was absolutely blown away by her presentation.

For me, as a former educator, it was riveting. Her demonstration of commitment and love for these children was moving, as was her determination to set them on a path away from poverty, dependency, bullying or crime, and toward education, self-help, mindfulness, honor and work ethic. And this was still going on amidst the additional challenges that Covid dealt them.

I knew I wanted to help as much as possible. I began working with the students who needed extra help in math. I also filled in as the math teacher for a

few weeks until they found a full-time math teacher. That gave me the opportunity to see what the students were really like, and I fell in love with them! Being able to work with them one on one was a chance to connect in a way that was rewarding.

## Mentors and more

There were also a number of our club members — Bob Brown, Jerry McClain, Bill Hart and Dave Patton — who were willing to serve as mentors for the students.

While the pandemic was a deterrent to very much interaction with the students, we thought of other ways to help the school. Bob Brown (a past district governor) and I began talking to other  
**(See MARANATHAN, next page)**



A dedication ceremony was held in the new library room, with the plaque presented to founder and director Donna Dukes (second from right).

## Maranathan

(From previous page)

Kiwanis clubs to help Ms. Dukes get speaking engagements. We also spent time talking with past governors Scott Sims and Colean Black, members of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club, about a vision for helping Maranathan Academy, and they were all in to help in any way.

Eventually Maranathan Academy was able to move from renting some small space in a church in downtown Birmingham, to a building where they could have more room.

We learned from Ms. Dukes there was a great need to convert one of the rooms into a library, and there was a huge need for books and shelving.

### Looking for ways to help

We began to think of ways to help Maranathan achieve this goal. My husband, Charlie O'Hara, was in charge of drawing up a plan to build shelving for the books. Charlie picked out the wood for the shelving (paid for by our Hoover club) and we put together a team.

Bill Hart, Bob Brown, Tim Smith and Dave Patton all gathered in our garage to construct the shelves. They were able to bring some of the cut wood to the school, and Charlie showed a few of the boys how to drill and connect the shelves together.

While this was happening, the Feb. 19 date was



Hoover-Metro Kiwanis presented a check for \$9,000 to Maranathan Academy during the library dedication, along with a plaque for the room.

approaching for the Alabama District Midwinter Conference to be held in Birmingham.

### Money made at Midwinter

District Governor Scott Sims had the idea to hold a "fun run" on the morning of the conference. Owen Bradley, a member of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Club and an avid runner, completely designed and organized the run, with the proceeds to be donated to Maranathan Academy.

A special guest, Kiwanis International President Peter Mancuso, also participated in the run/walk.

With the proceeds from that "Speed Stampede," plus a large donation from the Homewood-Mountain Brook club and donations from other clubs and individuals, a check for \$12,000 was presented to Maranathan Academy.

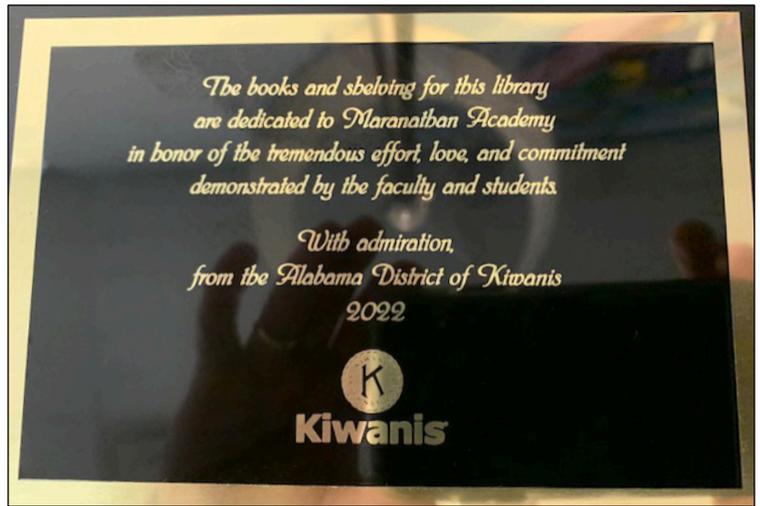
Sims invited Donna Dukes to speak at the conference. She also brought with her five of her students who joined her newly formed Key Club at Maranathan.

After her very moving speech and a standing ovation, we asked the audience to try to contribute, if they could, a small amount to our library book project. Our goal was to collect \$832 to buy one set of books, but our conference audience members were very generous in their donations, and we collected \$2,043.

(See LIBRARY, next page)



These members of the Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club braved cold temperatures on the morning of the Speed Stampede to come out and cheer on the runners at this 2022 fundraiser benefiting Maranathan Academy.



A team of Kiwanians cut wood in Charlie O'Hara's garage (top left); Then they moved to Maranathan Academy and showed students how to drill and fit the shelves together (below). Later they added a plaque dedicated to the "tremendous effort, love, and commitment demonstrated by the faculty and students."

## Library

(From previous page)

I had previously contacted Josh Barronton, business development manager for Barnes & Noble, and he was able to offer a 30% discount on the books.

I asked Bob Brown to work with him and the school's English teacher to produce a list of the books they wanted. They asked for a set of classic literature titles, and with the donations and the discount we were able to buy two complete sets plus 10 additional titles.

It was nice to find out from the English teacher that the students really liked the classic literature.

All of this happened over the course of a year and a half of just talking to others about Ms. Dukes and Maranathan Academy, and letting others know about how great the school was.

## Dedication ceremony

When the bookcases were finished and delivered to the school and the painting was done, the books were shipped. Since so many people and clubs contributed to this project, we printed stickers and placed them in the books to show they were donated by the Alabama District of Kiwanis.

Then our last action was to hold a small dedication ceremony at the school after the new school term began. The



books were placed on the shelves while the students were out, and on the day of the dedication ceremony, the students were shown the completed library. We could see immediately how pleased they were. That was worth it all!

## A check, a plaque

We had a dedication prayer, and then our Hoover-Metro Club presented Ms. Dukes with a \$9,000 check for Maranathan Academy. And finally we presented them with a small plaque, which read:

*The books and shelving for this library are dedicated to Maranathan Academy in honor of the tremendous effort, love, and commitment demonstrated by the faculty and students.*

*With admiration, from the Alabama District of Kiwanis, 2022.*

I don't believe I've ever participated in any charitable donation or any service project

that was as pleasurable, heart-warming and fulfilling as this service project.

In my view, this was a statewide service project, and one in which every Kiwanis member in our district had a hand, either physically or with a donation by themselves or their club.

This is a wonderful school with wonderful people, and it is worthy of our ongoing support.



When time came to make contacts and build a new Kiwanis Club in the Talladega-Lincoln area in October, Kiwanians came from around Alabama and even Mississippi to help. The top photo shows the group at the organizational meeting Oct. 27, while the lower left photo shows Immediate Past Governor Scott Sims of Homewood speaking to them. Pitching in and shown with new recruits are (center photo) Governor Mary Hoerlein of Auburn, left, and Past Governor/Membership Chair Bob Brown, and Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee Governor-elect Rogena Woods-Mitchell of Pascagoula, Mississippi, on left in right photo. See club service projects on Page \*.

# Talladega-Lincoln area gets the first new Alabama Kiwanis club of '22-23

**By Bob Brown**

District Membership Chair  
and Past Governor

Alabama District Governor Mary Hoerlein got her term off to a fast start with the addition of a new club in the first month of the new Kiwanis year.

The Kiwanis Club of Talladega-Lincoln was organized on Oct. 27 with 17 charter members.

The recruiting effort for this new club was led by Division 4 Lt. Governor Marvin Wagoner, with tremendous support from Kiwanis International Club Opening Specialist Rogena Woods-Mitchell, who is also governor-elect for the Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee District.

Alabama's Immediate Past Governor Scott Sims was on hand to speak to the new club and help oversee the election of officers.

Kristi Sayers, a former member of the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs, was elected charter president. Others elected include Lisa Johnson, vice president/president-elect; Bernadette Doles, secretary; and Danna Crocker, treasurer.

The new club quickly got right into service (see photos, Page 22). They delivered food for Thanksgiving dinners to 10 families and then boxes of Christmas gifts to more families.

Lt. Governor Marvin Wagoner said these two projects showed "the immediate impact this new Kiwanis club is having on the communities it serves."



Members of the new Talladega-Lincoln club are shown with their speaker at one of their first meetings. Councilman Joey Callahan and Angler's Pointe Development met with Kiwanians to talk about partnerships to support kids. "These folks are busy and have embraced the mission and purpose of Kiwanis," said Lt. Governor Marvin Wagoner.

**Stay in touch and share meetings and service with Key Clubs, Circle K and other K-Family clubs**



The new Kiwanis Club of Central Shelby, serving the areas of Pelham and Alabaster, held its organizational meeting (top left photo) Nov. 10. Other photos show prospective members with the club-building team, including Governor Mary Hoerlein of the Auburn club (left in top right photo) and Deb O'Hara, past president of the Hoover-Metro club (right in the bottom left photo). And "Kids Need Kiwanis," so babies are welcome, too (below).

# New club in Central Shelby County includes Pelham and Alabaster areas

**By Bob Brown**

District Membership Chair  
and Past Governor

The Kiwanis Club of Central Shelby County, encompassing the communities of Pelham and Alabaster, has become the second new club opened in the Alabama District for the 2022-23 year.

The club held its organizational meeting on Nov. 10 following a three-day membership blitz led by Kiwanis Division 3 Lt. Governor Bill Hart.

## Membership blitz

Other members of the on-site blitz team were Governor Mary Hoerlein; Club Opening Specialist (and Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee Governor-elect) Rogena Woods Mitchell; Past Governor and 2022-23 Alabama District Membership Chair Bob Brown;



and Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club members Deb O'Hara and Mitch Williams.

At the organizational meeting, the club got right down to business, elect-

ing officers, directors and a membership chair. Jason McCracken was elected charter president, along with Wendy Newland as vice president/president-elect, Daniel Logan as secretary and Peggy Fleetwood as treasurer.

## Stockings for Soldiers

They also wasted no time getting started with community service, providing Christmas stockings for soldiers in local hospitals and nursing homes. The stockings included grooming kits, toiletry items, socks, candy and other requested items.

Club President Jason McCracken said, "As a newly formed Kiwanis club, we felt fortunate to have an opportunity to complete a project with Siluria Brewing Co. Our club funded and stuffed over 100 Christmas

**(See SHELBY, next page)**

**Register now for the Midwinter Conference in Prattville Feb. 17-18, 2023**



## Songs for Kiwanis and Rotary

Does your club have an outreach group? The Decatur Kiwanis Club's Kiwanis Kuintet sang Christmas carols for their own club on Dec. 15, and in November they surprised the Decatur Rotary Club by singing "Happy Birthday" for its 94th anniversary. Kiwanis, which is 103, gave Rotary a birthday cake. "We love being part of a strong community with both Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs working to better our community and world," Rotary said on Facebook. From left at the Kiwanis meeting are Scott Slate, Steve Pirkle, Roger Kapp and George Godwin III. Not pictured is the other member, Greg Stephenson, who couldn't attend that Kiwanis meeting.

### Shelby

(From previous page)

stockings for the Stockings for Soldiers project."

The new club is meeting twice each month, alternating the location and time to accommodate as many members as possible.

On the first Thursday of each month they meet at 5:30 p.m. at Siluria Brewery in Alabaster, and on the third Thursday at 7:30 a.m. they

gather at the Bama Burger restaurant in Pelham.

The club chartered with 15 members and has already added two more.

Lt. Governor Bill Hart is pleased with the fast start of the club.

He said, "As a Kiwanian, the real joy for me in opening a new club like the one in Shelby County is knowing that it will have a major impact on the community for years to come."

## New clubs

(From Page 1)

serving more children.

The new clubs in the Talladega-Lincoln area and in Central Shelby County (Alabaster and Pelham areas) are featured on Pages 10 and 11 in this winter issue of the quarterly online Kiwanis Kourier.

Club-building teams are being put together for the winter and spring dates. If you can help, contact the division lieutenant governor in charge, or email Membership Chair and Past Governor Bob Brown at [rbrownbbsd@aol.com](mailto:rbrownbbsd@aol.com).

These dates and locations are scheduled:

- Tuskegee, Lt. Governor Jack Galassini, Feb. 14-16.
- Hueytown, Lt. Governor Bill Hart, Feb. 28-March 2.
- Albertville, Lt. Governor Sonde Coleman, April 11-13.
- Livingston, Lt. Governor Seth Edgil, May 16-18.

"The Alabama District of Kiwanis distinguished itself with respect to new club openings and net membership growth last year under the leadership of Immediate Past Governor Scott Sims," Brown said.

"Governor Mary Hoerlein is continuing that amazing growth trajectory this year, with two new clubs opened in the first quarter and at least four more planned for later in the year.

"We should all be extremely proud and actively supportive of these great accomplishments of the Alabama District."

## Father and son

(From Page 6)

"He heard me say many times that my rewards were far greater than any sacrifices that I had made," David said. "While Owen being a Kiwanian made me happy, that was his decision!"

Through the years, they have both attended many Kiwanis conventions. Their Kiwanis clubs have had many joint projects, too, from reading to children at Birmingham Head Start to working with challenged youths at Maranathan Academy, plus social events such as Kiwanis Night at a Birmingham Barons baseball game.

### Serving more children

David likes doing community service because "receiving so many smiles and heartfelt thank-yous from the children we have served is a very reinforcing reward." This especially applies to the Hoover club's projects such as serving meals at Camp Smile-A-Mile, which benefits children who have survived cancer, plus their parents and siblings.

He gets to see the connection between the fundraising

and the children who benefit. "During the three years I served as the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation chair for Annual Club Giving, each year we set a new record amount of money donated by Alabama clubs," David said. "That allowed for additional Alabama children to be served by the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation."

David had more ways of serving others. After he graduated from the University of Alabama, he volunteered in the Alabama Air National Guard for a six-year term. He worked 37 years at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama in Birmingham, retiring as a department manager for claims in 2009. He also served 13 years as a member of the Hoover City Council, but he always found time for Kiwanis.

David recalled that when he joined Hoover-Metro 43 years ago, he was the youngest member of the struggling new club. His senior club members asked if he could recruit a speaker every week for the year, and he agreed.

"I accomplished the challenge, and every week we had a top-notch speaker, and I got to know the 'movers and shakers' in the Birmingham area," he said. "Our club had a great foundation to build and grow as we made a positive difference in the community."

# Help Kiwanis enrich children's lives



## Children's Fund

By Colean Black,  
District Chair

The Kiwanis Children's Fund can help you develop fundraising strategies, manage district and club foundations, apply for grants and more. We offer club and district grants that can benefit children in your community.

We rely on the generosity of Kiwanians like you to make a difference in the lives of children. Together with Kiwanis International, districts, clubs and members, the Children's Fund addresses the needs of children through health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.

The Children's Fund will return a percentage of the district's 2022-2023 gift giving back to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation as part of the annual gift back program.

Curious? The website has a plethora of valuable resources!

■ Impact stories and news: [kiwanis.org/childrensfundimpact](https://kiwanis.org/childrensfundimpact)

■ Meeting Ideas: [kiwanis.org](https://kiwanis.org)



## Kiwanis CHILDREN'S FUND

[/readymademeeting](#)

■ Club grants: [kiwanis.org/childrens-fund](https://kiwanis.org/childrens-fund)

[/grants](#)

■ Link to give: [kiwanis.org/give](https://kiwanis.org/give)

Please partner with the Kiwanis Children's Fund through an individual and/or club contribution to help enrich the lives of children all over the world (including right here in Alabama). We would not be able to support these children without the investment of Kiwanis members.

For more information on the Kiwanis Children's Fund, donations and grants, contact Colean Black, Alabama District chair, Kiwanis Children's Fund, at [coleantb@gmail.com](mailto:coleantb@gmail.com).

## 2023 Signature Project Contest deadline near

Has your Kiwanis club thought about entering its Signature Project in the annual worldwide competition?

It's time to do it.

Kiwanis International's deadline to submit entries is Jan. 27 at 11:59 p.m. EST (10:59 in Alabama).

Alabama Kiwanis Past Governor Mark Kellerman, district contest coordinator, says Alabama clubs should gather the information on their projects, such as the estimated number of people participating and the number served, and complete the online forms soon. (Entry forms must be submitted entirely online, so allow extra time to handle technical difficulties.)

The Alabama District had the top prize winner in the large club category in 2019, when the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery took home top international honors for its long-running fair, a project that thrills thousands of children while also raising funds that are donated to organizations serving children in the Montgomery area.

Then in 2022, the Kiwanis Club of Decatur was named a top 10 finalist in the large club category for its many years of pancake days that raise money for projects serving children and teens.

This year, your club could be a winner.

*The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery took home top international honors in 2019 for its long-running fair, a project that thrills thousands of children while also raising funds for organizations serving children.*

What is your Signature Project? Think about what your Kiwanis club is known for in your community. It can be a service project or a fundraiser.

Signature Projects typically are recurring; they enhance the Kiwanis image; they demonstrate significant impact on the community in terms of money raised or children served; and they strengthen membership and partnership opportunities.

### Growing for 7 years

This event has been growing each year since it started in 2017 to highlight the many types of service accomplished by Kiwanians. Winning clubs in both large and small club categories are recognized at international conventions.

More than 420 club entries from

around the world are received annually, helping everyone learn about the amazing things Kiwanis members are doing in their communities to help others.

To enter, clubs should complete the form at [tinyurl.com/signature-project](https://tinyurl.com/signature-project), containing questions about their club's signature project. It is recommended that clubs copy the list of contest questions from the link above to help them gather the information they'll need to complete the entry form.

### Two levels of judging

The competition will be judged at two levels. After the entry deadline Jan. 27, Kiwanis International will send the online entries to each district, where judges will choose two Signature Projects to represent the district. Those two entries will include one from Group I clubs (27 or fewer members) and one from Group II clubs (28 or more members).

The district should send its two winning picks to KI no later than Feb. 17 for the international judging. Districts will be notified in early April if either of their club projects have been selected for the Top 10.

Contact the Alabama District office or Kellerman for more information.



The Vestavia Hills Key Club president (left photo) delivers goods collected across Division 6 (Birmingham) in support of One Woman Birmingham, a nonprofit that provides necessities to women. The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham supported Lt. Governor Ethan Schmidt in this



Division-wide function. Key Clubbers in Division 1 (Florence) built beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which supplies beds to children. Muscle Shoals Kiwanis Club supported the project.

# Kiwanis is helping Key Clubs succeed

Governor Mary Hoerlein, district board and Kiwanians:

I bring New Year's greetings on behalf of the nearly 6,000 members of the Alabama District of Key Club International.

As I travel the state and speak to Kiwanis Clubs and Key Clubs, I carry the message that you all are our "rock"—our foundation. 2022 was a year of growth, service and impact for Key Club, but we cannot sustain these successes without your support.

Whether connecting clubs with valuable service opportunities or providing financial support for our divisionwide functions and convention, we are grateful for the continued uplifting of Key Club.

Following the pandemic, we are back in our towns and cities making incremental contributions that culminate in positive change for Alabama.

From the Wiregrass to Jones Valley, Mobile Bay to Muscle Shoals, high school students are growing into servant



## Key Clubs

By Rylen Dempsey

leaders and change makers.

Key Club is on pace to experience a 15% growth in membership, a benchmark that returns the organization to pre-pandemic membership levels, but we won't stop there. In the coming years, Key Club will continue our relentless push for growth, while developing our existing clubs and members.

With nearly 200 clubs in high schools across the state, Key Club is our state's largest student-led high school service organization, but more work is on the horizon.

If you're ready to support a local Key Club, send us a note at [governor@alabamakeyclub.org](mailto:governor@alabamakeyclub.org), and we'll plug you in.

We sincerely thank you for your service to Key Club and all of the student leadership programs, and look forward to another year of prosperity.

*Rylen Dempsey is the governor of the Alabama District of Key Club International and a Vestavia Hills High School senior.*



Lt. Governor Shivani Babu with items collected in Division 10 (Auburn-Opelika) for the East Alabama Food Bank. Shivani received support from the Kiwanis clubs of both Auburn and Opelika.



## K-Family service at food bank



Members of the Auburn High School Key Club, Kiwanis Club of Auburn and Lee-Scott Academy Key Club worked together on a K-Family fall service project to pack food backpacks at the Food Bank of East Alabama. The Auburn High Key Club (top photo) has 356 members.

# Alabama Circle K clubs are raising money and planning service projects at convention



## Alabama Circle K

By Kailey Lippinski

Greetings, Kiwanians,

I am Kailey Lippinski and I am a student at the University of Alabama. I recently moved from the role of Circle K District Secretary-Treasurer to District Governor after our last governor, Lauren Goodrich, unfortunately had to resign due to personal matters.

CKI members from around the state gathered at Camp Living River Retreat on the Cahaba near Montevallo Nov. 4-6 for the annual Alabama Leadership Academy, which went splendidly well.

Many CKI clubs in the district have been working to fundraise for the Brick x Brick initiative. The Alabama District is currently ranked fourth internationally for funds raised, and the

University of Alabama is the club that has raised the fifth most internationally in support of Brick x Brick.

Looking forward, the 2023 Alabama CKI District Convention will be held March 3-5 in Prattville, Alabama. The theme will be "Under the Sea ... KI," and we are planning



Circle K District members gather around a campfire at their Alabama Leadership Academy at Camp Living River Retreat on the Cahaba.

multiple service opportunities throughout the weekend which will focus on environmental justice.

We are also working on multiple potential charters and working with clubs to promote spring member recruitment.

# Clubs in Action



**Anniston  
Kiwanis  
gives out  
97 bicycles**



Though Saturday, Dec. 17, was cold, the sixth annual Kiwanis bicycle giveaway created “warmth in our hearts,” said Anniston Kiwanis Club Past President Sonde Coleman, who was in charge of getting the 97 bikes assembled and the annual pre-Christmas event when children pick up their new bikes. “It was truly a morning of joy, as you see on Brayden’s face,” she said, mentioning a fourth-grader trying out his new bike. “He and all the other kids are the reason we have this event,” said Coleman, who is also serving as the division Kiwanis lieutenant governor.

She said it takes a lot of people besides Kiwanians to prepare for this project and mentioned Bill Wakefield, Zach and the staff of Martin’s Family Clothing in Oxford, the pickup site; B.R. Williams; the Anniston Fire Department; Sparklight general manager Mike Ligouri and his workers, who donated three work days to assembling bikes; Wigs Wheels; Key Club members from White Plains High and the Donoho School; Department of Human Resources employee Rosie Green; and Laurie Sistrunk and leaders from the Boys & Girls Clubs.

# Clubs in Action



## Polar Bear Dip at Gulf Shores

Great weather on New Year's Day led to the 12th annual Gulf Shores Polar Bear Dip being a ton of fun and a huge success. Kiwanian Taylor Means (second from left in group of four) said more than \$6,700 was raised for Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run, Alabama Special Olympics, and coastal Alabama charitable causes. Helping make the day possible, along with the Kiwanis Club of Gulf Shores, were The Hangout of Gulf Shores and the City of Gulf Shores.

## Birmingham club salutes veterans

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham's annual salute to veterans featured guest speaker Major General Sheryl Gordon, the Adjutant General of the Alabama National Guard. At this November meeting, the club also welcomed National Guard officers from throughout the state of Alabama and honored 30 club members who served the country.



*The Kiwanis Kourier needs your help. Share your club's service and fundraising successes with other Alabama Kiwanians. Send information and photos to [kiwaniskourier@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniskourier@gmail.com).*

**Register now for the Midwinter Conference in Prattville Feb. 17-18, 2023**

# Clubs in Action



## Monroeville's Citizen, Kiwanian of the Year

Chris Ziebach was honored as Citizen of the Year for 2022 and Angie Snyder as Kiwanian of the Year during a formal awards night held by the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville. The Nov. 11 event at the Vanity Fair Golf & Tennis Club also celebrated the club's 75th anniversary. Alabama Kiwanis Governor Mary Hoerlein attended, and veterans also were honored. Ziebach started a non-profit called Camille Place as a refuge for girls affected by sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She is shown at left with Jodi Lundy, president. The other photo shows Past President Debbi Jinright with Angie Snyder, right. Snyder is a fairly new member of Kiwanis who quickly took on responsibilities such as food vendor coordinator for the annual rodeo project. As director of the Monroe County Library, she is having a big impact on children and adults, Jinright said.



## Division 9 luncheon in Anniston

Kiwanis Governor Mary Hoerlein, third from left, was guest speaker when the Anniston Kiwanis Club, led by President Mickey Starling, hosted a Division 9 luncheon Dec. 1. Other clubs attending were the Gadsden Kiwanis Club, Oxford Kiwanis Club and Kiwanis Club of Cleburne County. Shown with Hoerlein are representatives of each club.

## It's pancake season for Kiwanis clubs around Alabama

Pancakes are big fundraisers for Kiwanis clubs, and winter is the time for many pancake breakfasts around the state.

Here are a few dates to get you started on your 2023 pancake journey:

- Gadsden Kiwanis Pancake Day, Feb. 18
- Decatur Kiwanis, Feb. 25
- Anniston Kiwanis, March 4
- Florence Kiwanis, March 10 and 11

Check online to find the times and locations for each club's event, and plan to attend the ones near you.

## Dothan, McDonald's are pancake partners

The Kiwanis Club of Dothan held its 52nd annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser with some new twists the week of Sept. 19-25, 2022, from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m., with the help of local McDonald's restaurants.

More than 3,000 tickets were sold (the most ever) with over \$18,000 raised, which allowed the club to donate half of the sales to the Ronald McDonald House as the result of an agreement with the McDonald's Murphy Family Restaurants for \$9,336 (about 74 nights for patients' families).

The other half of the monies raised will go toward 20-plus children's charities the Kiwanis Club supports.

All of the food and the time of the employees cooking/serving was donated by the Murphy Family.

Also, many Dothan-area businesses purchased tickets in bulk.

*Make a difference for those hospitalized at **Children's of Alabama** by bringing toys and items for their entertainment to the Kiwanis Midwinter Conference in Prattville Feb. 17-18.*

*See the specific wish list here:*

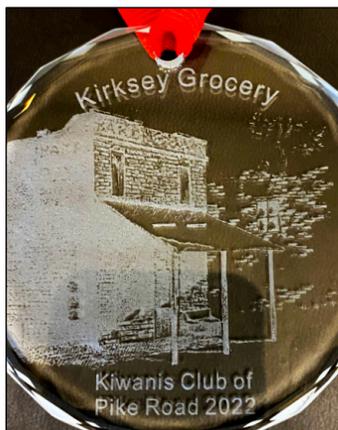
[tinyurl.com/children-gift-list](https://tinyurl.com/children-gift-list)

# Clubs in Action



## Ornaments for Pike Road

Kiwanis Club of Pike Road members Sandy Cohen, Phil Rawls and Melanie Haygood sell the club's Christmas ornaments at the Pike Road Arts and Crafts Fair on Nov. 5. The club is in its third year of selling etched-glass ornaments featuring historic sites in Pike Road. Proceeds benefit the club's scholarship program; \$7,500 in scholarships were awarded in May. The first ornament featured the John Hall Store, the oldest commercial building in Pike Road. The second year featured the Marks House, where Truman Capote's "Thanksgiving Visitor" was filmed in 1967. The club's 2022 ornament is a line drawing of Kirksey Grocery, which served the rural farming community with groceries and gas from 1890 to 1998. It was also a popular spot for residents to gather for coffee and gossip. The club's ornaments are based on drawings by Pike Road artist Bruce Brannen; the club plans a 10-year series of his work.



## Montgomery club hosts state DYW contestants

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery played host to the Distinguished Young Women contestants from all over the state at their Jan. 17 lunch meeting.

Julianne Abenoja, the Alabama winner in 2022, talked about her year. She was first runner-up nationally.

Several contestants sang and played piano and violin for Kiwanians. The young women were judged on their talent, scholarship and leadership before the winner, Carrington Hodge of Shelby County, was announced Jan. 21.

## Indian Springs Village Kiwanis aids robotics

The Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village presented checks totaling \$13,000 to the robotics programs of Oak Mountain middle and high schools. The club thanked its community supporters for their help with fundraising.



## Andalusia club's county fair aids food bank

The Kiwanis Club of Andalusia held a successful annual county fair that raised more than \$40,000 for area agencies helping children. For the second year, and while participating in Kiwanis One Day, Kiwanians accepted non-perishable items for a local food bank as admission to the fair on Saturday afternoon. Kiwanians Thomas Johnson, on right in trailer, and Glenn Powell, right, help

Andalusia High Key Club members Alexis Peacock, left, Courtlyn Knight, second from right, and Ethan Posey, in trailer, collect food from attendees. In the second photo, Andalusia Kiwanians Thomas Johnson, back left, and Jeremy Wolff, back right, deliver food collected at the Kiwanis Covington County Fair 2022 to the Christian Service Center food bank.

# Clubs in Action



**Christmas cheer: Decatur, Cleburne County, Vulcan, Alex City**



Kiwanians helped Santa deliver gifts. In Decatur (top left), Kiwanians and the Neighborhood Christian Center teamed up. The Kiwanis Club of Cleburne County (top right) sponsored breakfast with Santa, and \$10 tickets sold out for all three time slots. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave photo opportunities. The Vulcan Kiwanis Club in Birmingham held its 25th annual toy drive (bottom right) with four drop-off sites, assisting Greater Birmingham Ministries. In Alexander City (center), Santa rode a firetruck through neighborhoods, passing out toys to children who ran out to see him. The Kiwanis Club of Alexander City was one of the contributors.



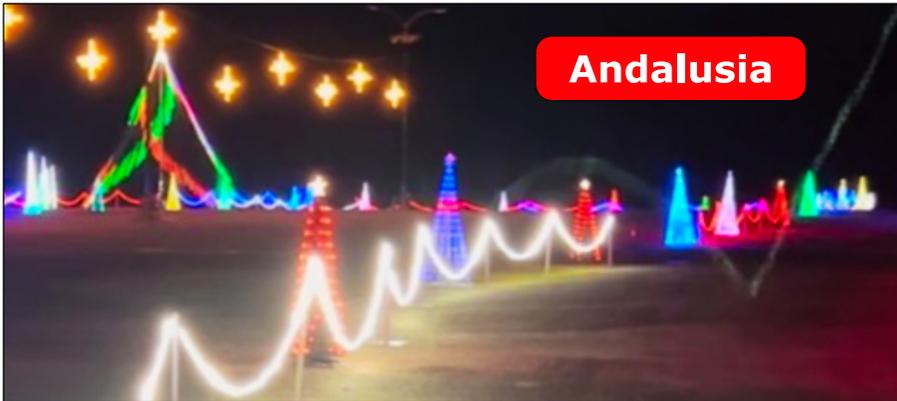
**Monroeville presents awards**



The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville presented several awards and Legion of Honor plaques on Jan. 3. From left are Jodi Lundy, president; Penelope Adams Hines, who received a J. Mercer Barnett Award for being named Kiwanian of the Year last year; Debbi Jinright, immediate past president, who was awarded a George F. Hixson Fellowship for her year of service as president; Phil Allen,

secretary; and David Stewart, 40-year Legion of Honor. The other photo shows David Hutcherson, right, recognized with Legion of Honor for 30 years, with Allen. Not pictured is Legion of Honor recipient Al Nettles, who has been in Kiwanis for 60 years and is the club's second longest serving member, after Roy Adams, who will reach 74 years of membership this year.

# Clubs in Action



Andalusia



Birmingham



Homewood-Mountain Brook



Selma

## Kiwanians in the holiday spirit

Several Kiwanis clubs around the state got into the holiday spirit and tried new types of social events and new venues for holiday gatherings. Others added new projects to the standard bell-ringing for the Salvation Army.

The Kiwanis Club of **Andalusia** decided to put its fairgrounds on Kiwanis Drive to good use during the holidays with a drive-through light display. A 65-foot flashing tree was the central focus of the \$10-per-car fundraiser.

The **Tuscumbia** Kiwanis Club had a good time sponsoring a cornhole game downtown on Dec. 10 during "A Dickens Christmas, Y'all." The club's annual Christmas social and luncheon was Dec. 20 at Helen Keller Public Library.

The Kiwanis Club of **Birmingham** had a festive evening at a Birmingham venue, The Sidewalk Cinema, af-



Alexander City

ter all the toys were collected and delivered to the Jefferson County Child Development Council.

The Kiwanis Club of **Homewood-Mountain Brook** created a "Toy Tree" loaded with fun items instead of ornaments for Children's of Alabama hospital in Birmingham. The club also was represented by a festively adorned group of marchers in the Mountain Brook holiday parade.

The new Kiwanis Club of **Selma and Dallas County** had a group with a Kiwanis banner marching (in the rain) in the Selma Christmas Parade.

The Kiwanis Club of **Hartselle** and the Kiwanis Club of **Gadsden** sponsored the Christmas parades in their cities, while the Kiwanis Club of **Alexander City** loaded children and Kiwanians onto its float for the local parade.

(See **HOLIDAYS**, next page)

Save the date: Kiwanis International Convention in Minneapolis, June 21-24, 2023

# Clubs in Action

## Holidays

(From previous page)

The new Kiwanis Club of **Central Shelby County** funded and stuffed more than 100 Christmas stockings for soldiers in hospitals and nursing homes. The stockings included grooming kits, toiletries, socks, candy and other items.

The new Kiwanis Club of **Talladega-Lincoln** was organized Oct. 27 and in less than a month completed its first service project, followed by a second project in the second month. They helped several families with Thanksgiving dinner items and later sponsored 30 children for Christmas.

The Kiwanis Club of **Monroeville** helped sponsor the annual Angel Tree Cake Auction, which raises funds to buy children's Christmas gifts.

The Kiwanis Club of **Pell City** worked with the Pell City High Key Club on a Pictures with Santa project Dec. 8. They also sold etched glass ornaments featuring a local historic home. Those fundraisers helped accomplish other projects, such as treating area veterans to a breakfast in their honor on Veterans Day, assisted by the Key Club.

The Kiwanis Club of **Bay Minette**



**Talladega-Lincoln**



made a \$250 donation to "Shop with a Cop," a pre-holiday project of the Bay Minette Police Department.

The **Vulcan** Kiwanis Club in Birmingham helped the Jefferson County Sheriff with "Operation Christmas."



## Ringling bells, raising money for Salvation Army

Kiwanis clubs around Alabama have participated in the Red Kettle project of the Salvation Army for many Christmas seasons. Members ring bells and take donations, a major source of funding for the Salvation Army. Some club members wear holiday attire and bring their matching dogs, like Beth Geiger and Aubie Dog of the Kiwanis Club of Daphne-Spanish Fort (left photo), while others stick with the red aprons, like these Kiwanis Club of Dothan helpers (right photo).

# Clubs in Action

## Updates on Alabama Kiwanis clubs

The Kiwanis Club of **Oxford** provided breakfast for the Oxford High School flag football team before members headed to Auburn. They congratulated the team on a great season and making it to the state championship game.

The Kiwanis Club of **Alexander City** helped sponsor Alexander City Youth Wrestling and a fall tournament. The coach accepted a check at a Kiwanis meeting and invited members to attend and watch the events. "Thanks for all you do for the kids of our community," he told club members.

The Kiwanis Club of **Jasper**, along with fishing teams from Jasper and Curry and an army of volunteers, helped with the annual Cast for Kids event in October. They baited hooks, cast lines and fished the Walker County Lake while witnessing many smiling faces. The weather was perfect, and the lake was stocked with catfish so the odds were good.

Fourteen members of the **Vulcan** Kiwanis Club attended the noon Jan. 17 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of **Birmingham**, where Kiwanian and Mayor Randall Woodfin gave his State of the City address.

The Kiwanis Club of **Alexander City** held a new fall membership event at The Orchard on Washington Street, with Karen and Tony Channell as hosts. The club is celebrating 75



**Vulcan Kiwanis Club members attended a meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham to hear Mayor Randall Woodfin's State of the City address.**



**The Kiwanis Club of Jasper baited hooks, cast lines and helped children fish the Walker County Lake in the annual Cast for Kids.**

years of service and seeking new members to increase its outreach to children and youths. The club received a holiday donation after a local fundraiser: the Christmas Cause Party and Silent Auction, held at the Lake Martin Innovation Center. Ross Kilpatrick of Exit Realty Anchor South presented the check at a club meeting where Governor Mary Hoerlein spoke. Gifts of fire pits and outdoor chairs were taken to the Sheriffs' Girls Ranch.

For Kiwanis One Day Oct. 22, when clubs serve their respective communities on the same day, the Kiwanis Club of **Dothan** held a work day at the playground for the Salvation Army. They added fresh mulch and handled other maintenance at the playground. On Nov. 16, Dothan club members again enjoyed a luncheon at the farm of Adair and Maurice Gilbert.

New and gently used toys are being collected this winter by the Kiwanis Club of **Cleburne County**. The club plans to donate them to help refresh the visiting areas at the Department of Human Resources for babies and children in foster care and others. Activities suitable for babies through adolescents can be used. For its fall Kiwanis One Project, the club partnered with the Imagination Library book program and Heflin Main Street's Trunk or Treat Block Party, where members passed out candy.



**The Kiwanis Club of Dothan added mulch and handled other maintenance for a Salvation Army playground on Oct. 22, Kiwanis One Day.**