



Kiwanis[®] Kourier

ALABAMA DISTRICT

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Children in this classroom are ready to take their new books home as part of “Kiwanis Reads,” the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham’s literacy and education project. Honora Gathings, in back, the club’s executive director, read to this group.

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Birmingham club’s reading project in top 10 worldwide

By Patrice Stewart

Kiwanis Kourier editor

“Kiwanis Reads,” a literacy service project of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, has been selected one of 10 finalists in the large club division of Kiwanis International’s 2025 Signature Project Competition.

This project includes Kiwanians reading in classrooms and giving preschoolers books to take home. In addition, the Birmingham club provides books for the “Books Not Bullets” program where sheriff’s deputies give out books while on patrol to build good relationships.

The Birmingham entry was originally selected for the KI

(See TOP 10, Page 4)

KI names Alabama District ‘Distinguished’ for 2023-24

By Patrice Stewart

Kiwanis Kourier editor

The Alabama District of Kiwanis and Immediate Past President Keith McKendall will receive “Distinguished” honors for 2023-24, the year he served as governor.

Each year, the past president of Kiwanis International looks at the accomplishments of each district and notifies the governors who have earned “Distinguished District” honors. Those governors and their executive directors will be honored at a banquet June 25 during the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

McKendall said he received the good news in a phone call from Katrina Baranko of Albany, Georgia, whom he served with as governor when she was the 2023-24 president of Kiwanis International. A letter followed from the KI immediate past president:

(See DISTINGUISHED, Page 8)



Keith McKendall
Alabama District
Governor, 2023-24

Watch for registration information for Alabama’s District Convention at Gulf Shores Aug. 15-17



Kiwanis Governor Paul England takes care of business during the joint district convention for Circle K and Key Club on March 14-16 in Hoover. Above, he presents a pin to new CKI District Administrator Racheal Fairley. She replaced Peck Fox, who retired April 1. Martin Nguyen (center) assists her. At right, Paul England and wife Debbie help celebrate Key Club International's 100th birthday during the weekend.



Youth organizations join Kiwanis in efforts to build, nurture, retain

Hello, Alabama Kiwanians, and Happy Spring!

It is hard to believe that we are already half-way through another Kiwanis year.

It has been a busy six months as Kiwanis continues its new membership initiative: "Build. Nurture. Retain."

It is important to note that we call it an initiative, not a campaign. That is because campaigns have a beginning and an end. "Build. Nurture. Retain" is an ongoing effort designed to help growth become a part of Kiwanis' culture. The focus is on building new clubs, nurturing new and existing clubs, and retaining members by providing an unsurpassed service experience.

February was especially busy as the Alabama District hosted Midwinter Conference events in Mobile, Auburn and Trussville. I want to thank our leadership team for their efforts. This required a big commitment of their personal time to give up three weekends for Kiwanis.

I also thank all who attended as we had some great discussions and educational programs.

I am very happy that we received good support from our



From the Governor

By Paul England

Circle K and Key Club leaders as we were able to engage in some meaningful discussions that will help us support each other more effectively.

Traveling around Alabama

On Feb. 15, the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden put me to work at their Pancake Breakfast. It was great to see the cooperation between club members and their Key Club members. Thank you to our Executive Director Tammy Driskill and Lieutenant Governor Michael Chandler for being great hosts!

In March, we successfully organized our second new club of this Kiwanis year! This effort to form the Kiwanis Club of Geneva County was led by Lieutenant Governor Pam Alexander. Her home club of Dothan is serving as the sponsor. Geneva County has great community spirit, and I am very optimistic that this club will have a very positive impact on the community.

I would like to say a special "thank you" to the Kiwanis Club of Dothan, as they have been very active and supportive of our new-club building efforts in the last several years.

(See GOVERNOR, next page)

Governor

(From previous page)

The Dothan club is also working on developing a new Sheriff's Ranch Home in the Dothan area.

We are working to build new clubs in the coming months and have targeted new clubs in all areas of the state from Mobile in the south to Athens in the north. We have also identified several sites in north central Alabama.

Our District Membership Chair and Vice Governor Rogenia Woods has done an outstanding job and is available to help your clubs with our new Kiwanis initiative. You can email her at Membership@alkiwanis.org.

However, while our membership initiatives are designed to help grow and improve the Kiwanis brand and experience, they work only if you the member are willing to get involved and act. We need clubs and coaches to help sponsor and mentor our new and existing clubs.

Young leaders and change

Following our successful club build in Geneva County, I was able to spend the weekend in Birmingham at our District Key Club and Circle K conventions. It was very refreshing to see the excitement of our young people! We have a bright future if we can successfully engage these young leaders to continue to be involved in Kiwanis.

I was very honored to be presented with the Bob Palmer Memorial Award by our Alabama District of Circle K International.

I also want to thank Peck Fox for his outstanding efforts in leading Alabama Circle K, our sponsored group for college students. He retired as our District Circle K Administrator effective April 1. Good luck in retirement, Peck!

He left our district in good hands, as Racheal Fairley has taken on the role of District Administrator. A member of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club, she served CKI as Alabama District Governor in 2018-2019. She will be assisted by Martin Nguyen,



Speeches, officer installations, banquets, anniversary and award ceremonies, club building — a Kiwanis governor's work includes all kinds of occasions. Sometimes you have to ditch the coat and tie and get dirty, as 2024-25 Governor Paul England demonstrates at the wheelbarrow in the center. He was helping the Fairhope club put mulch on the grounds of the children's park downtown.

a member of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville who also was active in CKI.

Thank also to District Key Club Administrator Marla Hines for her outstanding efforts in support of our high school Key Clubs.

Summer conventions

The Kiwanis International Convention is scheduled for June 26-28 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our Alabama District attendance goal is 28 members, but we would like to have more!

As many as would like can register and attend. However, each club is allowed only two voting delegates, and Kiwanis International asks that clubs send in their delegate information forms by April 30.

We are planning to hold our district dinner in Pittsburgh on Friday evening. Remember to sign up so that District Executive Director Tammy Driskill can make plans for us to spend this fun time together with our fellow Kiwanians from several other Districts. We will also be highlighting Key Club's 100th anniversary at the KI convention.

Our Alabama District Convention will be held Aug. 15-17 at the Lodge at Gulf Shores, Alabama. You will enjoy the first-

class accommodations on the white sands of our Alabama beaches.

And you don't want to miss the Saturday talk by Chris Singleton, an inspirational speaker who survived a mass shooting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. Please look at his information and learn how he successfully turned a personal tragedy into a positive message!

This will be a fun time to be at the beach and just enjoy Kiwanis. Watch for more information and online registration, which will open June 1.

Kiwanis is busy but fun! I have traveled to all parts of our great state. I have gone from flipping pancakes in Gadsden to helping the Fairhope club put mulch on the grounds of their downtown children's park, and from new club building to enjoying time with our sponsored youth!

Thank you for all you do for the children of Alabama! I hope to see you in Pittsburgh and Gulf Shores!

And don't forget ...

Meanwhile, please make sure to send your dues payments and election reports to Kiwanis International as quickly as possible. Our Alabama District operation relies on your club's payment to KI for our district dues collection. We receive our dues only when they are remitted back from KI after payment.

For help with club Facebook pages and/or website assistance, email our District Communications Officer, Brian Rodgers, at brianrodgers@gmail.com.



Governor Paul England is proud of the apron he received for flipping pancakes at the Kiwanis Club of Gadsden's Pancake Day Feb.

Top 10 (From Page 1)

contest by a district committee that read several Alabama entries from clubs with 28 or more members. Then a KI committee evaluated the 500-plus submissions and chose 10 that will be highlighted with other finalists during the Signature Project Breakfast June 26 at the KI Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Gold, silver and bronze winners will be announced there, with monetary prizes of \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000 awarded.

Rogersville project also in contest

Winning entries from small clubs will be announced at the same time. The Alabama District entered the Kiwanis Club of Rogersville's Hamburger Day / Trunk or Treat project in that contest (see story and photos on Page 5).

The KI letter congratulating the Birmingham club on its selection as a finalist said, "This contest recognizes the most innovative and impactful signature projects from Kiwanis clubs across the world. ... Thank you for your time and commitment to Kiwanis and to your communities in the collective effort to make a positive change ..."

Kiwanis Reads is a preschool literacy program launched in 2021 and now serving 900 Birmingham City Schools preschoolers twice a year, as well as another 1,100 in the community through the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Honora Gathings, executive director of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, said Kiwanians read in classrooms twice a year and provide books for the children to take home to build reading libraries.

Each book contains a QR code, enabling an adult to scan the code, taking them to a video of a Kiwanian reading the book.

This year, Kiwanis Reads added nearly 300 students and more than 10 new schools, according to Gathings.

"We also partnered with the Sheriff's Office to provide books to restart the 'Books Not Bullets' program. This enables deputies to hand out books to students while on patrol to foster positive relationships in a community with an increasing homicide rate and to further grow home libraries and a joy of reading," she explained on the entry form.

Literacy law's challenge

"Many households do not have adult readers or even English speakers. A literacy law went into effect recently requiring students to read at grade level or be held back in fourth grade. The program is embraced by educators to help overcome this challenge."

When the reading program was launched, she said, "Kiwanis" was in the program's name to ensure prominent branding and ownership. All books contain book plates with the logo and message about the gift from the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, as well as branded QR codes.

"Our members are encouraged to wear their pins and tell students about the club," Gathings said. They promote the program to the club's roughly 500 members through mailed and electronic newsletters, as well as mission moments at the podium during club luncheons, which average around 130 people and sometimes up to 300. News releases and promotion on social media are part of their publicity plan.



What's better than a Kiwanian reading a book? Chicken Little reading the book "Chicken Little"! The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham goes all out for children through its literacy project "Kiwanis Reads."

About 120 club members participate in the project, and about 60 children are read to on each outing. Club expenses are estimated at \$4,000 a year.

Kiwanis-sponsored youth clubs are getting involved in the project. College students from one of the Circle K clubs began reading in classrooms in March, while one of the sponsored Key Clubs is working on a book drive for the students served.

While the club has a Kiwanis International partner, Scholastic, for the reading program, it also has several local partners. They include the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, a book distribution partner. Several reading site partners are involved in the service project: Birmingham City Schools, Bell Center, Preschool Partners, United Ability, and Charles Hard Elementary School in Bessemer. The club also works with a local author and book partner, Martha Underwood. Their media partners include Bham Now and WVTM.

Gathings noted that the club and its reading program received an award from Charles Hard Elementary School "recognizing us for our partnership." The Birmingham Kiwanis executive director said they often hear back from their literacy partners with messages similar to the one below.

"The boys and girls have been excited to have members of the Kiwanis Reads program read to them," said Arlene Williams of Birmingham City Schools. "Through reading aloud, vocabulary is introduced, fluency in reading is demonstrated, expressive reading occurs and, most important to me, the demonstration of reading for pleasure occurs," she said.



Rogersville Kiwanians and volunteers have fun while flipping burgers, top left, and readying the buns, below, for their twice-annual Hamburger Day fundraiser. For their fall free event, Trunk or Treat, shown above right, they recently added evening food trucks that were a hit, while the burger bags are sold for lunch. These Rogersville Kiwanis events were chosen to represent the Alabama District in the small club division of Kiwanis International's 2025 Signature Project competition.

Rogersville's project: burgers, treats

The Kiwanis Club of Rogersville's Hamburger Day/Trunk or Treat project was the Alabama District's entry in the small club division of Kiwanis International's Signature Project competition.

Rogersville, with a population of about 1,385 in rural northwest Alabama, has competition from nearby cities.

This project shows that residents like to have something to eat and somewhere to go locally — especially when it helps fund education and literacy projects such as providing scholarships and purchasing children's books.

This club has about 24 members, and the small club division is limited to clubs with 27 or fewer members.

The Hamburger Day fundraiser serves 600 to 700 meals and is held twice annually, once in the spring and once in the fall in conjunction with Trunk or Treat. Club President Melissa Sides estimated the Trunk or Treat event draws 1,400 to 1,600, with many families coming from surrounding areas for a safe place to enjoy Halloween. While Trunk or Treat is free, about \$4,200 is raised by the same-day burger sale.

The entire community gets involved, with Foodland selling supplies at cost, Citizens Bank and Trust loaning a pop-



corn machine, Southwest Funding loaning a tent, and bank staffers helping with food prep.

The town provides the use of the community park and helps with promotion, security and parking, while the mayor flips burgers. The Rogersville Volunteer Fire Department provides their licensed kitchen facility for food and sets up tables nearby for those who want to eat there.

These projects have been attracting fans for 12 years, with various twists. Food trucks are a recent addition; after selling out, they are expected back in the fall for this continuously growing event, said the president.

Rogersville Kiwanis-sponsored Key Club and Builders Club members pre-sell tickets for the burger sack lunches. They also help with setup, cleanup and working at the free games set up for Trunk or Treat.

The top three winners in large and small divisions will be announced and receive cash prizes during the Kiwanis International Convention in June.

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham's reading program was chosen as Alabama's large division entry and has been notified that it is a top 10 finalist (see Page 1).

Could your club's big annual service project or fundraiser be a winner? Plan now to enter the Kiwanis International 2026 Signature Project competition, and watch for deadlines in January. Start collecting photos and data as your events are held throughout the year.

Make annual donations to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Kiwanis Children's Fund

Gulf Shores convention Aug. 15-17

Save these dates for Kiwanis fellowship and fun with a beach vibe: Aug. 15-17, 2025.

The annual Alabama District Convention is planned for The Lodge at Gulf State Park.

This Hilton hotel located right on the Gulf has an infinity pool, two restaurants and all the other amenities, and there's plenty more to do at the 6,150-acre Gulf State Park and in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. See lodgeatgulfstatepark.com for more information on the hotel, located at 21196 East Beach Blvd., Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Kiwanis Governor Paul England has arranged for a talk by inspirational speaker Chris Singleton, whose mother was killed in a church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

The program will also include information on new Kiwanis programs and projects, election and installation of officers, and more.

"We would like for every Kiwanis club in Alabama to be represented there," England said.

Watch the website alabama.kiwanis.org for more information. Convention and hotel booking will open June 1.

May 23 deadline to obtain the lowest price for international convention in Pittsburgh

Hear from The Fonz. The familiar actor from the "Happy Days" TV series will inspire you with his commitment to helping children.

Get tips from clubs that have reached notable heights in member recruitment, service projects and fundraising.

Learn about "Kiwanis Engage" and "Build. Nurture. Retain." Participate in The Possibility Project's Generosity Challenge.

Take time for fun and relaxation with Kiwanians from around the world at the welcome reception, rooftop sunset social and Roaring 20s gala.

May 23 is the last day to register at the lowest price to attend the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention, scheduled June 25-28 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

After that, the \$399 registration fee (including several meals) goes up to \$499 through June 20 and then \$599 to register on site at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Hotel registration is separate, but you can see the list of convention hotels and start all your sign-ups at the KI website: tinyurl.com/ki-pittsburgh.

Kiwanis International gives 10 reasons you should register, attend and help "Forge the Future" (the 2025 theme based on Pittsburgh's steel history):

1. Dynamic educational workshops and classes. Explore the ways Kiwanians are building new clubs and gain in-



sight into expanding and nurturing your club's membership. Learn how to make your club attractive, meaningful and enjoyable for all generations. Dive into master classes that go deeper into leadership training and community service, with subject-matter experts as your guides. Our workshops will get you ready to tackle a to-do list designed to take your club — and Kiwanis — to the next level.

2. The Convention Kickoff. Start your experience with a celebration of Kiwanis. The opening session features beloved actor, producer and author Henry Winkler. You'll be inspired by Winkler's story and his commitment to helping children reach their full potential.

3. Membership Fair and Welcome Reception. Looking for recruiting inspiration? Pick up tips from clubs that have been recognized for their growth efforts after using Two For Two, club boosts, open houses, guest days or their own membership drives. During the Welcome Reception, visit vendors,

meet candidates and enjoy entertainment and refreshments. New this year: a DJ and door prizes!

4. Fellowship with Kiwanians from around the world. Take time to relax with longtime Kiwanis friends and new connections. Join fellow Kiwanians for the Sunset Social, a special party on the rooftop of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center with finger

food, a cash bar and entertainment. On Saturday night, mingle at the Gatsby-inspired bar or hit the dance floor during our Roaring 20s Gala.

5. CKI members. Circle K International — the Kiwanis service program for university students — is holding its convention alongside ours at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Stop by the CKI booth in the Kiwanis Marketplace to meet some of its members — and learn about the amazing work they do on their campuses, in their communities and around the world!

6. Kiwanis Launchpads. There will be two Kiwanis Launchpads this year. Designed to be short and high impact, these presentations will send you home with ideas and inspiration. The first Launchpad will celebrate Key Club's 100th anniversary by featuring alumni who credit much of their success to the values and skills they learned in Key Club. At the second Launchpad, you'll hear from the

(See PITTSBURGH, Page 20)

Mike Tew is vice governor candidate

Michael H. "Mike" Tew has been endorsed by the board of the Kiwanis Club of Dothan as a candidate for 2025-26 vice governor of the Alabama District.

Delegates will vote during the business session on Saturday of the Alabama District Convention scheduled at Gulf Shores Aug. 15-17. He is the only known candidate at this time.

Current officers include Governor Paul England, Governor-elect Seth Edgil and Vice Governor Rogena Woods.

A vice governor usually moves up to governor-elect and then governor, with voting held at each annual District Convention.

"We look forward to Mike Tew serving the Alabama District with distinction and pride," said Bobby Landwehr,



Mike Tew

president of the Kiwanis Club of Dothan, in a nomination letter. "He has been an involved Kiwanis member for over 30 years, having served as Distinguished Club President, Distinguished District Lieutenant Governor, and District Treasurer. He believes in the mission of Kiwanis."

Landwehr noted that Tew holds a Doctorate of Business Administration Management. He is a retired instructional technologist from Southern Nuclear who also operated his own construction company and has other experience.

"He is very involved in the community through local government appointed positions and in state work as appointed by the governor of the State of Alabama, as well as in many other organizations," said Landwehr.

Tew's goal: 'Recruit and energize' members

Mike Tew has been a Kiwanian for more than 30 years, serving in clubs in both north and south Alabama.

He has a few observations about the future of Kiwanis and a lot of Kiwanis and other civic experience, as well as career experience.

"I believe that the Kiwanis organization, like most organizations, has a need to increase membership — not only with new members but younger, active members," Tew said. He would like to help current leaders "recruit and energize" new members.

30 years in 2 Kiwanis clubs

"Kiwanis cannot continue to lose membership and continue with the charities we serve in a valuable way. We need to recruit new members and get them excited about helping children in our communities and around the world," he said.

Tew grew up in Dothan. He originally joined Kiwanis in Sheffield in 1978; after moving back to Dothan in 1981, he joined the Houston County club, where he was honored as a Distinguished President and a Distinguished Lieutenant Governor. He was District Treasurer when it was a separate office, and he also formerly headed the lieutenant governors' group.

A Hixson Fellow, Tew is currently president of the Dothan Kiwanis Club Foundation. An active member of the Dothan club, he was recognized as a Distinguished Member for 2023-24 and



Mike Tew with children after reading to them during a Dothan Kiwanis service project.

has attended many Midwinter Conferences and District and Kiwanis International conventions.

Announcer and food judge

A few unusual facts about Tew: He is a certified food judge and a certified grant writer; he holds several OSHA certifications; and he was a high school stadium announcer for more than 15 years, as well as an announcer for various community functions.

As the former owner/operator of Tremco Services LLC, a residential and commercial remodeling company, he "took great pleasure in tackling challenging projects such as restoring the exterior of a very old schoolhouse in southeast Alabama." He sold the business and concentrates on philanthropic

work now.

Tew is retired from Southern Nuclear Operating Co., a division of Southern Company Inc., where he was an instructional technologist. He formerly was the Director of Continuing Education at Troy University in Dothan, as well as being an instructor of economics, marketing and finance. He has an earned Doctorate in Business Administration Management as well as master's in business administration and bachelor of science degrees.

Alabama governors have appointed Tew to serve on Career Committees and Course of Study Committees, as well as the Credentialing Committee for Education Certification.

(See MIKE TEW, next page)

Jasper club has first satellite meeting

The Kiwanis Club of Jasper is having great success in organizing a satellite club. The first meeting of the satellite club was held Tuesday evening, March 18, at Tallulah Brewing Co., with bingo and Kiwanis trivia served with fun. The club's goal is to offer two types of meetings: traditional meetings at lunch on Mondays at the Bevill cafeteria (Five Loaves), and satellite club meetings monthly on Tuesday evenings at Tallulah Brewing Co.



Mike Tew

(From previous page)

He and his wife, Gail, have three sons and six grandchildren. At Calvary Baptist Church of Dothan, he is a deacon, vice chair of the Finance Committee and member of the church choir.

Tew serves on the board of directors

for Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership, Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity, Regional Workforce Committee, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Board, Southeast Worlds of Work, Azalea-Dogwood Festival, and The Haven Substance Abuse Board.

He previously was president of the Dothan Multi-Relations Committee

and served on the Northview High School Band Booster Board, the Dothan/Houston County Association for Retarded Citizens Board, RSVP Board, Citizens Supervisory Board of Directors, several school parent-teacher boards and the Dothan Board of Education Committee of High School Excellence Committee.

Distinguished

(From Page 1)

"Congratulations! It is a privilege to recognize the Alabama District, led by you as the 2023-24 governor, as a Distinguished District," her letter said.

"Only a select group of districts reached this level of achievement, and I hope you are as proud of this success as I am.

"Distinguished District status is a singular and extraordinary recognition, achieved by only 10 to 20 percent of districts annually. I hope you take great pride in the remarkable accomplishments of your district last year.

"I look forward to celebrating our shared success in Pittsburgh at the 2025 KI Convention and am deeply grateful for your outstanding commitment to Kiwanis."

'A three-peat'

McKendall said he is "extremely proud of all the people who worked on this," especially the past governors who for several years have really put an emphasis on membership and club growth.

"What makes this award so great is that it's a three-peat — the third year in a row we have received this honor," he said. He pointed out that Past Governor and now KI International Trustee Scott Sims developed a game plan and carried it out to end a 20-year decline in Alabama membership, and then 2022-23 Governor Mary Hoerlein led the second year of growth.

During McKendall's 2023-24 year, even more clubs were built and strengthened. After an international dues increase and small membership dip at the end of the year, he was delighted to hear Alabama would receive the honor.

"The whole district should be recognized," McKendall said. "We made it because of Membership Chair Rogena Woods and Executive Director Tammy Driskill and the lieutenant governors and everybody who worked on membership."

During Alabama's Midwinter meetings, Governor Paul England asked McKendall to share the district-wide good news, along with presenting his awards for 2023-24 to members and clubs.

Leadership roles

McKendall is a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village and served on its charter board of directors. He is married to Dr. Rosalynn Crawford-McKendall, a pediatric dentist who is also active in the Indian Springs club.

As immediate past governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis, he serves on the board and continues to head the district project to help Challenged Schools, which he began during his term as governor. He also is a member of the board of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

McKendall is celebrating several big events this spring and summer. The Alabama District of Key Club presented him with the George L. Price Jr. Service to Youth Award during its March District Convention in Hoover. During his last three years in Kiwanis offices, he also was attending law school. His May 3 graduation from law school at Miles College is another highlight, followed by the June recognition planned at the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh.



New club in Geneva County

The Alabama District's newest Kiwanis club was built in Geneva County in early March. The top photo shows some of the new members and organizers, while the bottom photo shows officers and club builders doing some planning on site in Geneva, near Dothan. A club was built at Semmes in December. Vice Governor and Membership Chair Rogena Woods has a list of other possible sites where a Kiwanis club could lend a helping hand, and she needs Kiwanians to volunteer to recruit. Email her at membership@alkiwanis.org.



Revitalizing recognition: Introducing new Ala. Kiwanis Foundation awards

By Colean Black

President-elect
Alabama Kiwanis Foundation

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation (AKF) is excited to unveil a completely reimagined awards program — just in time for the upcoming District Convention Aug. 15-17 in Gulf Shores.

For the first time ever, Kiwanians across Alabama will have access to a tiered recognition program that is meaningful, affordable and accessible for clubs of all sizes.

This initiative is about more than awards — it's about celebrating the people and service that define who we are as Kiwanians.

Designed to increase visibility and engagement with the foundation, the new awards are structured to highlight values, service, innovation and impact — without being tied to names that may no longer resonate with newer members.

How it works

Each award falls under one of several meaningful categories, such as:

- Leadership in service
- Community impact
- Youth empowerment
- Legacy of caring.

Instead of one-size-fits-all, awards can now be customized through three tiers of recognition:

- Tier 1 — \$100: Pin and certificate
- Tier 2 — \$200: Pin, certificate, and banner patch
- Tier 3 — \$300: Pin, certificate, banner patch, and acrylic award.

This model ensures your club can honor outstanding members while making a real impact through your donation to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

Club-level recognition

Clubs that have members receiving Tier 2 or Tier 3 awards during the year will receive a Distinguished Giving

Award banner patch to recognize the collective spirit of generosity and service.

Award materials will be available to order starting at the District Convention Aug. 15-17, with turnaround times of just three to four weeks. Whether you're recognizing a trailblazing volunteer, a youth advocate, or a behind-the-scenes hero, this new program is a powerful tool to boost morale and spotlight service.

Easy submission process

You'll be able to submit via a printable form or through an upcoming online submission portal, with payments accepted by check or online methods. Full details will be available at the district convention and on the Alabama District Kiwanis website/Foundation tab.

If you have questions, contact Colean Black at 205-936-7411 or Foundation@ALKiwanis.org.

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation matching grants give a new opportunity for impact

By Colean Black

President-elect
Alabama Kiwanis Foundation

Exciting news for Kiwanis clubs across Alabama.

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation (AKF) is thrilled to introduce its Matching Grant program, designed to amplify your club's efforts to create meaningful change in your communities.

Whether you're launching a fresh initiative or strengthening an ongoing project, this program offers a chance to double your impact with grants of up to \$2,000. Here's what you need to know to get ready — and how to stay tuned for the application window leading up to the Alabama District Convention (DCON) in August.

What's it all about?

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Matching Grant program is here to support Kiwanis clubs in funding service projects that make a real difference, especially for the children of Alabama.

The concept is simple: your club raises funds for a community-focused project, and AKF matches your contribution, dollar for dollar, up to \$2,000 (as funding allows).

This is your opportunity to tackle a need in your community — whether it's providing school supplies, supporting a youth program, or addressing another local challenge — with a financial boost from our district foundation.

How it works

Getting involved is straightforward:

1. Plan Your Project: Dream big! Identify a project that aligns with AKF's mission to benefit kids and strengthens your community. Fundraising projects aren't eligible, but service-driven initiatives are perfect candidates.

2. Complete the application: Fill out the Matching Grant Application form, which can be found on the district website under the Foundation tab, or contact Colean Black at 205-936-7411 for assistance. Be sure to detail your project's goals, whom it will help, and how you'll measure success.

3. Send your matching funds: Include a check for the amount you want matched (up to \$2,000), made payable to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. Mail both the application and check to P.O. Box 4151, Huntsville, AL 35815-4151.



Colean Black

Checks will not be cashed unless the grant is approved and awarded.

4. Wait for approval: The AKF Board will review applications to ensure they meet the criteria, with a special nod to smaller clubs if funds are limited.

5. Clubs receiving grant funds are requested to showcase their project through the next District newsletter edition.

Timing is everything

Applications are accepted twice a year: in January for the Midwinter Conference and in July for the District Convention.

For the upcoming DCON in August 2025, keep an eye out for our media campaign launching in June. This will be your signal that the application process is about to begin. The application window will officially open on July 1 and run through July 30. Awards will be presented at the District Convention, with payments following shortly after, so approved clubs can hit the ground running.

First-time buzz

This is a fresh chance for clubs to kick off something new or enhance what's already in motion.

Haven't applied before? No problem — this could be your club's moment to shine. And if your club has supported AKF's Annual Gift-Giving Program, be sure to mention it in your application — it's a great way to show your ongoing commitment.

Make it happen

Imagine the possibilities: doubling your budget to reach more kids, partnering with local groups for bigger impact, or finally launching that project you've been dreaming about. The AKF Matching Grant program is here to help you turn ideas into action. Stay tuned for the media campaign in June

to alert you when the application process opens on July 1.

Questions? Reach out to Colean Black at 205-936-7411 for guidance.

Get your project ideas ready, rally your club, and let's make a difference together at DCON 2025! Visit the district website under the Foundation tab for the application and instructions. We can't wait to see the incredible projects Alabama Kiwanis clubs bring to life with this new opportunity.

This is your opportunity to tackle a need in your community — whether it's providing school supplies, supporting a youth program, or addressing another local challenge — with a financial boost from our district foundation.

See you in Gulf Shores Aug. 15-17 at the District Convention, where you will hear more about the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation!

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

Fifty top county spellers ages 6 to 13 competed for state champion at the 2025 Alabama Spelling Bee, a project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. The March 22 bee was held on the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Kiwanis-sponsored state Spelling Bee crowns fourth-grader 2025 champion

A fourth-grader from Jefferson County won the 2025 Alabama Spelling Bee, a project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

Several members of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation board were on hand for the statewide Spelling Bee, held March 22 in University Hall at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The annual event showcased the talents of 50 spellers ages 6 to 13 representing counties around Alabama.

The competition was intense, but in the eighth round, Snigdha Pati of Deer Valley Elementary School in Jefferson County correctly spelled the word "jurisprudence" to claim the title of Alabama Spelling Bee champion.

Competing in Washington

This also secured her a spot in the prestigious 100th anniversary competition of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in May.

Runners-up were Ayden Nguyen of Coffee County, who was last year's winner, and Iniabasi Ufot of Russell County.

"The excitement was palpable as students navigated through eight challenging rounds that tested both their spelling and vocabulary skills," said Alabama Spelling Bee Executive Director Susan McDougal, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville. "This year's event marked another milestone for the Bee, as students not only demonstrated exceptional academic prowess but also poise under pressure."

Hundreds of schools

She said that more than 723 schools in Alabama took part in the program this year. Winners from each school usually advance to a county competition, with additional contests held in some large metropolitan areas.

The Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Alabama District of Kiwanis are dedicated to supporting educational initiatives across the state and raising funds for programs and charities benefiting children and youth.

The 2025 Alabama Spelling Bee was attended by several



The winner is Jefferson County fourth-grader Snigdha Pati, second from left, who will go to the national bee in Washington, D.C., in late May. Also shown are runners-up Iniabasi Ufot of Russell County, left, and Ayden Nguyen of Coffee County; at right is Huntsville Kiwanian Susan McDougal, executive director of the Alabama Spelling Bee, who also directs Huntsville and Madison County bees.

members of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Board, including Past Kiwanis Governor Ernest Hulsey, Kristie Bennett, Dr. Dale Elliott, Past Governor Keith McKendall, and Past Governor Colean Black, who is president-elect of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

"Their presence underscored the importance of community support and volunteerism in fostering academic excellence," said the executive director of the event.

"This was one of our best Spelling Bees yet," McDougal said. "We are so proud to help each and every student in Alabama achieve academic excellence. Their dedication to learning is inspiring, and we couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate their success."

(See SPELLING, next page)



Several Kiwanians and other volunteers attended the Alabama Spelling Bee and assisted Executive Director Susan McDougal with registration and more duties. Past Kiwanis Governors Colean Black, Ernest Hulsey and Keith McKendall attended, along with other Foundation board members including Dr. Dale Elliott and Kristie Bennett.



Spelling

(From previous page)

McDougal added:

"Snigdha's victory is not only a testament to her hard work and determination but also a source of pride for her family, school, and the state of Alabama.

"As she prepares for the national competition, Snigdha has become an inspiration to her peers, showing that with perseverance, anything is possible."

The Alabama Spelling Bee has long been a staple of academic achievement, providing a platform for students to showcase their abilities and gain recog-

nition for their educational efforts. With each passing year, the event continues to grow in popularity and prestige, further solidifying its importance in fostering the next generation of leaders, scholars, and thinkers, said the director.

"As Snigdha Pati gets ready to compete on the national stage, all of Alabama is cheering her on. The state's pride in her accomplishment is palpable, and everyone is eager to see how she performs in the upcoming Scripps National Spelling Bee."

Along with a plaque, she will receive a trip to the national competition with family, compliments of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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alabama.kiwanis.org

**See you in
Gulf Shores!
District Convention**

Aug. 15-17, 2025

Registration opens June 1 at
alabama.kiwanis.org

Email news and photos of club projects to the Kiwanis Kourier, kiwaniskourier@gmail.com

Awards given at Midwinter meetings

Officer training, Kiwanis education, awards and fellowship were features of three Midwinter Conferences held around Alabama.

District Governor Paul England planned three meetings for date and location flexibility to give more Kiwanians an opportunity to attend. Meetings were held in Mobile on Feb. 1, Auburn on Feb. 8 and Trussville on Feb. 22.

Governor-elect Seth Edgil, Vice Governor Rogena Woods, 2023-24 Governor Keith McKendall, Past Governor Mark Kellerman and others talked about topics such as club coaching, attracting young members, service projects and Service Leadership Programs, and youth protection guidelines.

Colean Black, a past governor, gave an update on the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation. Youth leaders from Key Club and Circle K also spoke.

Club officer training sessions were held. District Executive Director Tammy Driskill talked about the Kiwanis International Convention coming up June 25-28 in Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania.

Awards for Distinguished Members and Distinguished Clubs, as well as other recognitions for the 2023-24 Kiwanis year, were presented by McKendall, assisted by Driskill. They are listed on this page along with some photos, while other photos from the three Midwinter locations are featured on the following pages.

To be named a Distinguished Member for 2023-24, a Kiwanian must have sponsored at least two new members, participated in two Kiwanis service projects and attended the District Convention or Midwinter Conference.

To be named a Distinguished Club, a club with 15 or more members must have net growth of at least three new members; sponsor at least one Service Leadership Program (SLP); have clear background checks on all SLP advisors; have in-person club representation at two of the following events: Kiwanis International Convention, Alabama District Convention or District Midwinter Conference; and participate in the Alabama District's "Challenged Schools" project.

Distinguished Members

Mary Hoerlein (Kiwanis Club of Auburn)
Paul England (Kiwanis Club of Monroeville)
Brooks Alexander (Kiwanis Club of Azalea City in Mobile)
Mike Tew (Kiwanis Club of Dothan)
Sam Gaston (Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook)
Bruce McLellan (Kiwanis Club of Decatur)
Tammy Driskill (Kiwanis Club of Gadsden)

Distinguished Club

Kiwanis Club of Azalea City in Mobile
—Club President: Keith Graham
—Club Secretary: Brooks Alexander

Champion of Membership recognitions

Bruce McLellan (Kiwanis Club of Decatur)
Pam Alexander (Kiwanis Club of Dothan)
Mickey Starling (Kiwanis Club of Anniston)
Bill Hart (Kiwanis Club of Hueytown)
Mark Kellerman (Kiwanis Club of Fairhope-Eastern Shore)



The Azalea City Kiwanis Club of Mobile was honored as a Distinguished Club for 2023-24. From left, Past Governor Keith McKendall presented recognitions at the meeting in Mobile to Azalea City club officers Keith Graham, a past governor, and Brooks Alexander, who was also honored as a Distinguished Member. At right is District Executive Director Tammy Driskill.

Thanks to Keith McKendall, Rogena Woods and Brian Rodgers for helping Kourier Editor Patrice Stewart with photos at Midwinter Conference sites.

Brian Rodgers, center, communications officer for the Alabama District of Kiwanis, received a "Governor's Choice Award" for 2023-24. He is a past governor and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Indian Springs Village and is shown with District Secretary Tammy Driskill and 2023-24 Governor Keith McKendall. Rodgers, who helps with district communications and technology, was cited for his "commitment to excellence and willingness to assist in every possible way."



Alabama Kiwanis District Governor Paul England presided over all three Midwinter Conferences and also was recognized as a Distinguished Member for 2023-24.



Mobile

Midwinter Conference



Have Kiwanis questions? Call District Secretary Tammy Driskill, 256-504-9773



Auburn

Midwinter Conference



Update meeting times and locations on your Kiwanis club websites and Facebook pages



Auburn

Midwinter Conference



Watch for registration information for Alabama's District Convention at Gulf Shores Aug. 15-17



Trussville

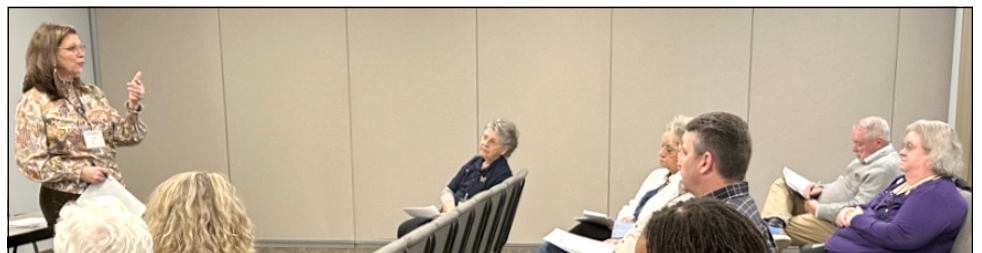
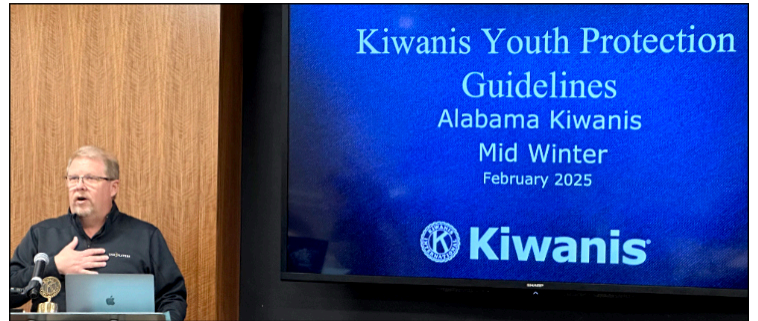
Midwinter Conference





Trussville

Midwinter Conference



Have Kiwanis questions? Call District Secretary Tammy Driskill, 256-504-9773

Cordarius Longmire of Greenville won the statewide Robert L. Bottsford Most Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award at the Alabama Key Club District Convention in Hoover. About 20 club members and adults from Greenville and Georgiana were there to cheer at the convention presentation.



Greenville's Cordarius Longmire wins top advisor award for state Key Clubs

The Kiwanis Club of Greenville is proud to sponsor three Key Clubs and delighted that its Greenville High Key Club and advisor Cordarius Longmire won top awards at the Alabama District Key Club Convention in Hoover.

Longmire, a teacher at Greenville High, received the Robert L. Bottsford Most Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, with a big group of students attending the convention and cheering for him.

The Key Club at Greenville High was named Most Amazing Key Club in Division 13.

"To say that I am proud of our Key Clubs is an understatement," said Michelle Styron, vice president of the Kiwanis Club of Greenville.

She said their three Key Clubs in Butler County are at Georgiana School (newly chartered this year), Greenville High School (second-year reinstated charter) and Fort Dale Academy.

Two of the three chartered Key Clubs sent representatives to the convention in Hoover: Greenville and Georgiana. "These young adults had a great time at this event," she said. The 100th anniversary of Key Club International occurred in March and was celebrated at the convention.

The award received by Longmire was named for the late Bob Bottsford, a longtime Key Club administrator for the Alabama District of Kiwanis.

Longmire, in addition to his duties as Key Club advisor since August 2023 and job as a special education teacher at Greenville High, is also a minister and worship leader and has written a book about leadership: "Training to Serve." He and his wife, Rae, are foster parents, and she is the advi-



Cordarius Longmire

sor for the new Key Club at Georgiana School.

Now Cordarius Longmire is a new member of the Greenville Kiwanis Club; he joined in April. The club vice president said he is discussing possibilities for a Circle K club at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Greenville, and perhaps a Key Club for McKenzie School.

The Greenville Kiwanis vice president shared the following information about Longmire and their Key Clubs that she submitted in the nomination process for the Robert L. Bottsford Award:

Longmire's service

"Cordarius Longmire has been the Key Club advisor for the Greenville High School Key Club since its charter was reinstated in 2023. He was willing to jump in and learn the advisor's role on the fly.

"The Kiwanis Club of Greenville is so thankful for him. We had been trying to get the Greenville High School Key Club going again for a while. We consider ourselves and the members of the Greenville High School Key Club very fortunate to have Cordarius in the role as advisor.

"In his very first year at Greenville High, he was willing to take on more than the faculty role he was hired for; he was willing to volunteer his time to become the club advisor. The Greenville High School Key Club has been very active since its reinstatement, and I wholeheartedly believe it is because of the adult leader they have in Cordarius Longmire.

(See ADVISOR, next page)



The newly elected Alabama District Key Club executive committee for 2025-26.

Key Club 2025-26 Ala. District Board

Kamden Moore, Governor
William Ellard, Secretary
Casen Cambron, Growth Chair
Nathan Williams, Editor

Lieutenant Governors:

Division 1, Caroline Supri
Division 2, Abigail Muecke
Division 3, Lauren Blankenship
Division 4, Gracie Street
Division 5, Emely He
Division 6, Akash Parekh
Division 7, Valentina Pedraza
Division 8, Estelle Thomas
Division 9, Roark McKibben
Division 10, Gustavo Ojeda-Miron
Division 11, Salinger Brown
Division 12, Hannah Deese
Division 13, Mackenzie Sanford
Division 14, Elias Samayoa
Division 15, Kahyeon Jeon

Advisor

(From previous page)

"Aside from volunteering at multiple community events, with Cordarius at the helm, the Greenville Key Club has held not one but two very successful interclub youth leadership events which are open to members of the three locally chartered Key Clubs. The third annual event is in the works.

"They have held an awesome awards banquet at the end of each school year and provided their very own Key Club Scholarship."

Longmire's encouragement helped lead to Greenville Kiwanis Club's third Key Club charter.

"Last but not least," Styron said, "he has instilled in his club that you have to work for what you want. He has made the young adults he works with understand that it is not often that something is just handed to you.

"He helped his youth develop ideas for fundraisers. They set their goals and implemented action to achieve said goals," bringing 20 Key Club members along for the convention.



After Greenville Kiwanis, with the help of Cordarius Longmire, chartered a third Key Club in Butler County, these 2025-26 officers from Georgiana School were able to join Greenville High students and attend their first Key Club District Convention. From left are Georgiana Key Club Secretary Jakiriya Morgan, Georgiana School Key Club Advisor Rae Longmire and Georgiana Key Club Treasurer Khloi Mobley.

Pittsburgh

(From Page 6)

director of the Fred Rogers Institute, as well as an engaging speaker who will teach you how to find joy in conflict through curiosity.

7. Kiwanis Marketplace. This is your go-to hub at the heart of the convention. Shop, snap photos, snag swag and more. Here, you'll find exhibitors and Kiwanis partners who can inspire fresh ideas on impactful service projects and effective fundraisers. You can also browse Kiwanis-branded merchandise, including special-issue 2025 convention items. Meet the candidates running for international officers and trustees. Learn about your host city.

Get details about our ongoing "Build. Nurture. Retain." membership initiative. Explore the new Kiwanis Engage membership platform and more.

8. 2025 Kiwanis Annual Meeting. Get informed about the business of Kiwanis International and add your voice to our future. Delegates from clubs around the world will elect the organization's next leaders and vote on amendments.

9. Celebrations. From the Welcome Reception and the Convention Kickoff to the Kiwanis Roaring 20s Gala, you'll celebrate Kiwanis and the amazing work our clubs and members accomplish every day. Have breakfast with our Signature Project Contest finalists (and see who wins the big prizes). En-

joy lunch on Thursday while learning about The Possibility Project's Generosity Challenge and on Friday while marking Key Club's milestone centennial birthday. And get ready for a night of glitz and glamor at Saturday night's Roaring '20s Gala.

10. Our host city. Pittsburgh is a versatile destination brimming with discoveries. From the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, you'll have easy access to the Cultural District, the historic Strip District and the Allegheny River. You'll also be located near shops, restaurants, galleries and theaters. From sightseeing to the sports scene, breweries to bistros, and amusement rides to museums, Pittsburgh has something for everyone.

Joint convention marks centennial



Balloons, party hats, cake and a big "100" decorated the banquet room at Embassy Suites in Hoover, where the 100th anniversary of Key Club International was celebrated during the District Convention. Alabama District of Key Club members were joined by CKI members and Kiwanians. Kiwanis International Trustee Scott Sims was a speaker, and retiring CKI Administrator Peck Fox, shown with CKI Governor Srija Adabala, was honored. Kiwanis Immediate Past Governor Keith McKendall received Key Club's George L. Price Jr. Service to Youth Award. Workshops and elections also were held at the March 14-16 event.



Register to attend the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh June 25-28, 2025

CKI networking, awards in Hoover



Alabama CKI members (clockwise, from top left) enjoyed a District Convention March 14-16 where they joined in the celebration of Key Club's 100th anniversary. Kiwanis Governor Paul England met members and officers from as far away as New Jersey. Lou Willie of the Birmingham club received the Armand St. Raymond Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor award from CKI; he is flanked by outgoing Governor Srija Adabala, left, and incoming Governor Alexis Lopez. Martin Nguyen, a member of the

Huntsville Kiwanis Club and Assistant CKI Administrator, was presented the Hall of Fame Award by outgoing Governor Srija Adabala. He works with the lieutenant governors to help create plans for each division. Other awards (not pictured) included the Bob Palmer Memorial Award to Kiwanis Governor Paul England and the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award to Ashley Snellgrove of the Kiwanis Club of Enterprise.

Racheal Fairley, new Alabama District Administrator, receives CKI's Alumnus Award

New Alabama CKI District Administrator Racheal Fairley, center, was presented the Randall J. Williams Distinguished CKI Alumnus Award. She is from Mobile but moved north to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she earned Bachelor's and Masters degrees in science in 2019 and 2022. She is a hospital clinical data analyst at Children's of Alabama and a member of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club. She enjoys travel and trying new cultural dishes, as well as spending time with friends and her dog. At left is 2024-25 CKI Governor Srija Adabala and at right is Liberty Bull, the 2024-25 CKI Capital Division Lt. Governor from Troy University.



Members of Circle K International will meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and share some speakers and programs with Kiwanians during international conventions for both organizations. Dates of the Kiwanis convention are June 25-28.

Peck Fox retires as CKI Administrator for Alabama District, expresses thanks

Peck Fox of Montgomery, Circle K District Administrator for six years, retired April 1.

CKI members gave him several farewell gifts at the District Convention March 14-16 in Hoover, including a scrapbook of memories of his years with the college students and a red fleece blanket with the inscription "Peck Fox AL CKI DA 2019-2025."

Following are the thoughts he shared about his six years with CKI:

"The weekend of March 14-16 was my final District Convention of the Alabama District of Circle K International (CKI) as Kiwanis District Administrator.

"I have served as District Administrator six years, and I wouldn't give up a day of those six years, when I was blessed to work with some of the most outstanding college student servant-leaders I could ever imagine.

"I am grateful to the six Governors of the Alabama Kiwanis District who entrusted me with this job: Robert Brown, Mark Kellerman, Scott Sims, Mary Hoerlein, Keith McKendall and Paul England. In addition, I couldn't have done the job without the support of the very backbone of Alabama Kiwanis, Executive Director Tammy Driskill.

"I was truly blessed to work with seven outstanding CKI Governors — Zarien Morris, Wamia Samad, Ariana White, Lauren Goodrich, Kailey Lipginski, Amiaya Ross and Srija Adabala. Each amazed me with their skills, talents and dedication, and I am proud to call them friends.

"In addition, I was privileged to work with several outstanding CKI International Presidents, two of whom are Alabama Circle K members — Tana Early and Taylor DiCiccio — and Kyle Lank, whom I consider an adopted Alabamian. There were also about 33 other Alabama District board members who inspired me with their service.

"I also need to thank my fellow District Administrators for their friendship and support — Mike Olivo, Chad Gardner, Jason Stewart, K'Lynn Sloan Harris, Lena Scheiben-



Past CKI Governor Kailey Lipginski presents a scrapbook of CKI memories to Peck Fox, who retired as District Circle K Administrator after the District Convention. Read about his replacement, Racheal Fairley, on Page 22.

graber, Justin Hahn, Armando Velasquez, Maryann Belason, Catie Dugan Vargas, Angelo Ciardella, Colleen Bickerstaff, James Wm Martin, Jennifer Hethcox, Jerry Scheuing and James Phelps, among others.

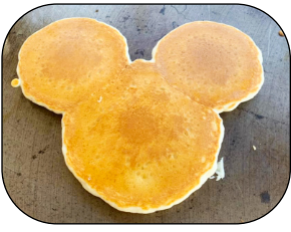
"And I cannot forget CKI staffers, Samantha Rife Wagner and Josh Dodson, former Kiwanis executive Stan Soderstrom, or former CKI staffer Jeff Harris.

"Lastly, for their help, support and patience — a sincere thanks to Brenda Sonner (whom I met when we were both in CKI), Stephanie Marie Fox (our daughter and a former CKI Governor), Justin Crofoot (our son-in-law and a former CKI President) and Aaron (our son and a former CKI District Board member)."

Alabama's CKI District elects its officers and leaders for 2025-26



New CKI District officers and leaders elected for 2025-26 during the District Convention in March include, seated from left, Governor Alexis Lopez and Communications Officer Reagan Bull; standing, District Administrator Racheal Fairley, Valley Division Lt. Governor Alex Allison, Champion Division Lt. Governor Ansh Ramani, Secretary-treasurer Jordan Wewers, Capital Division Lt. Governor Ty'Shaun Caldwell and Assistant Administrator Martin Nguyen.



Clubs raise service funds: Pancakes ...



Gadsden

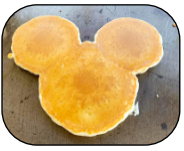


Anniston



Florence





... and more pancakes



Jasper



Homewood-Mtn. Brook



Tuscumbia



Huntsville



Decatur



Make annual donations to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Kiwanis Children's Fund

Clubs in Action



Pickleball T-shirts and enthusiasts in Muscle Shoals (left) and Jasper.

Shoals, Jasper hold pickleball fundraisers

If it's spring, it must be pickleball season! Several Alabama Kiwanis clubs have turned the fun new sport into fundraising.

The Kiwanis Club of Muscle Shoals held a Pickleball Clinic plus guided open play for all skill levels March 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a Muscle Shoals Rec Center gym.

Newbies and seasoned players all got a chance to sharpen their skills in friendly competition, while registration fees helped the club serve local children and families.

The Kiwanis Club of Jasper held its second annual Pickleball Classic on April 26-27 at the Courts at Swann Gym on Kiker Lane. The Round Robin Tournament included men's, women's and mixed doubles.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward Jasper Kiwanis projects such as Track & Field Day, BUG (Bringing Up Grades) Club, Service Leadership Program clubs such as Key Club and Builders Club, scholarships and a community grant.



Greater Alabama club donates 15 ebook readers for Children's of Alabama patients

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Alabama donated 15 Kindle ebook readers to Children's of Alabama. The devices are now available for young patients to use at the medical facility in Birmingham. They are pre-loaded with a selection of books to bring comfort to children and teens facing medical challenges. Greater Alabama is an online Kiwanis club that meets via Zoom.



Gaston receives honor for 2023-24

Lt. Governor Deb Gasque visited the Indian Springs Village Kiwanis Club March 17 to give a district update and present Sam Gaston a Distinguished Member award for 2023-24. Gaston, a member of two Kiwanis clubs, was nominated by the Homewood-Mountain Brook club and is currently president of the Indian Springs Village club. Six similar awards were presented at the midwinter meetings (Pages 13-18).

Clubs in Action



Top revenue producers (over \$2,750) for the Decatur Kiwanis Club's 2025 Pancake Day were (from left) Mark Waters, Keith Jackson, Tommy Daniels, Ron Stokes, Leissa Hill, Kent Lawrence, Charlotte Gregory, Alan Host, Darrell Wates and (not pictured) J. Robert Fite.

Decatur's Pancake Day raises \$150,000-plus

The Decatur Kiwanis Club raised \$150,421 during its Pancake Day on Feb. 22 — the highest amount in the annual event's 59 years. Of this amount, \$125,009 has been allocated for community projects.

The money will go to: multiple organizations, \$113,509; scholarships, \$6,000; a special project, \$3,000; a Kiwanis International Mercer Barnett Award, \$500; and club dues for schools, \$2,000.

Keith Jackson was the club member who raised the most money through Pancake Day. His total was \$20,960.

The club sold, prepared and served pancake meals at Decatur High School. Revenue included ticket sales, sponsor-

ships and donations.

"This event is really a city of Decatur event," said Mark Waters, the club vice president who chaired Pancake Day.

"We have over a hundred members with relationships throughout the community. Through their relationships, we are able to raise money to support the many organizations that work daily to uplift our children in the Decatur-Morgan County area.

"It is unbelievable how much support companies and individuals are willing to give and work because they see the impact of the Kiwanis Club of Decatur's Pancake Day."



Hamburger Day for Rogersville

The Kiwanis Club of Rogersville held its Spring Hamburger Day fundraiser April 25 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Rogersville Volunteer Fire Department's main station behind Town Hall. While tickets are sold in advance by Kiwanis and Key Club members, walk-up orders are welcomed. Indoor seating is available for dining at the fire

hall. The cost is \$6 per meal, which includes a grilled burger and condiments, chips, drink and dessert. Sack lunches are prepared for to-go orders. This Rogersville project was the Alabama District entry in the small club category of Kiwanis International's 2025 Signature Project competition.

Clubs in Action



Huntsville club tours City Hall

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville toured their new City Hall on March 10. The seven-story building has been open about a year and can hold all city departments and 370 employees. The offices and public spaces showcase art by local residents.



Tuscaloosa's Family Day on a farm

Members of the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club and their families enjoyed a fun spring outing at Katie Farms with hosts Farmer Jon and Farmer Margaret. Kiwanians parked their cars in the pasture and sipped lemonade and tea at outside tables while the children explored the farm, gathering eggs and exploring the tractor and silo house. The visitors asked questions and heard facts and farm stories. Dinner was catered by Coker Market, with Celebrations Bakery providing flower-shaped cookies in pink and green. The farm in the Coker community near Tuscaloosa was established in 2007. Jon Fleenor and his wife, Margaret Purcell, specialize in heirloom vegetables, free-range eggs and Scottish "Highland Red" cattle.



Madison holds baseball fundraiser

The Kiwanis Club of Madison sold tickets for the April 24 Rocket City Trash Pandas baseball game as a fundraiser, using an online link. At the game, they put together a table with information about Kiwanis and their club, which meets at Toyota Field at Madison Town Center. In February, they collected small stuffed animals, toys, coloring books and crayons and put together gift bags for young patients at Madison's hospital. A March social was held at Old Black Bear Brewing Co. on Main Street in Madison. For meeting times and membership information about this club, which was organized in 2024, email madisonkiwanisclub@gmail.com.

Clubs in Action



Greenville Terrific Kids

The Greenville Kiwanis Club was proud to reward 42 students at Greenville Elementary School with the honor of Terrific Kids for the months of January, February and March. Terrific Kids is a character-building program offered through Kiwanis International, with local Kiwanis clubs helping put the program in place in their schools. These students are among several groups awarded certificates and goody bags. Kiwanians Michelle Buffy Styron and Joann Mathews say they feel joy when they see the idea spark in a child that they were chosen as a Terrific Kid because a teacher saw qualities in them such as thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, respectfulness, responsibility, inclusiveness, friendliness, inquisitiveness and capability.

Enterprise sponsors 3rd Glow Golf Tournament

The third annual Glow Golf Tournament sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Enterprise was a glowing success.

The evening event was held March 15 at The Bridges at Tartan Pines course in Enterprise. Registration began at 5, with music by DJ Joe Love starting at 6 and a longest-drive contest at 6:30 before the shotgun start at 7. Awards and prizes were scheduled for 9.

The \$100-per-golfer fees plus sponsorship packages will help the club fund projects benefiting children and youth.

Vulcan holds 27th golf tourney as fundraiser

The Vulcan Kiwanis Club held its 27th annual golf tournament April 14 at Highlands Golf Course in Birmingham.

Mayor Randall Woodfin gave opening remarks. Along with golf, networking and fun, participants and sponsors helped raise funds for projects benefiting children and youth.



Monroeville's annual Spring Swing

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville combined fun, families and fundraising on April 18 for its annual Spring Swing Radio Day and Golf Tournament. Sponsors and Radio Day ads helped raise money for scholarships and children. Monroeville Kiwanis also sponsored the county spelling bee, giving money to first- through fourth-place winners.

Troy club, university team up for spelling bee

The Kiwanis Club of Troy collaborated with the Troy University English Department to sponsor the Pike County Spelling Bee.

More than 50 Pike County elementary and middle school students competed in the Scripps-affiliated bee Jan. 30 in Troy's Claudia Crosby Theater. The Alabama Spelling Bee is a project of the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation.

The Kiwanis Club provided judges, free T-shirts for contestants, medallions and trophies,

while the English department organized and promoted the event with help from campus volunteers.

Nylah Teague, a seventh-grader from Banks School, won the county bee and became Pike County's representative at the Alabama Spelling Bee in Birmingham in March. Abel Sahli, a fourth-grader from Troy Elementary School, was the county runner-up and alternate for the state competition.

Clubs in Action



Homewood-Mountain Brook club supports local events

The Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook regularly gets out and participates in community events. In April, members helped out at the Homewood Public Library's block party and City of Mountain Brook's shredding and recycling event. They also turned out for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "Out of the

Darkness" Walk at Patriot Park. The club's recent donations went to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Keeping Kindness Foundation, The Red Barn (offering therapeutic horseback riding and more to those with physical challenges), Girls Rock Birmingham and Fairfield Prep High basketball programs.



Decatur awards annual Hixson Fellowship for service to Scott Mayo

Scott Mayo (center in first photo) received a George F. Hixson Fellowship from the Decatur Kiwanis Club on Feb. 20, 2025, for his service to the club and community. Nick Mayo (left) introduced his father, and Kent Lawrence (right) presented a plaque. The local club gave \$1,000 to the Kiwanis Children's Fund in honor of Scott Mayo, who

is a club member and executive director of the Cook Museum of Natural Science. Previous winners of this annual award selected him. Many of these prior winners were present: (left to right) Tim Lovelace, Leissa Hill, Noel King, Bobby Joe Smith, Bill Stone, Steve Pirkle, Tommy Daniels, Tom Caddell, Andy Kelly and Herman Marks.

Tuscaloosa club honors James Mize as Member of Week



James Mize (right) was named Kiwanis Member of the Week by the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club. His service as club president was cited, as well as helping recruit speakers and members, gathering supplies for Pancake Day, keeping members in touch and up to date, leading interclub visits with other Kiwanis clubs, and serving the community.