



# Kiwanis® Kourier

## ALABAMA DISTRICT

Summer 2025

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28 pages

# Kiwanians to meet at the Gulf

*Sign up by Aug. 3 for District Convention, set for Aug. 15-16*

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

The registration deadline is near for the Alabama Kiwanis District Convention scheduled for Gulf Shores on Aug. 15-16.

Kiwanians must register online by noon on Sunday, Aug. 3, to attend meetings, as well as to reserve breakfast, lunch and dinners.

All events will take place at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, which is a Hilton hotel.

Sign in and get your name tag beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, when a cash bar will open for Kiwanians. A shrimp boil buffet is planned for the Friday evening dinner at 6:30, with "Singo Bingo" entertainment after dinner.

On Saturday morning at 8 a.m., the Kiwanis registration  
(See GULF SHORES, Page 4)



Kiwanis International Trustees Gary Jander of California and Mohan Lamsal of Nepal present a symbolic \$2,000 check for the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, top winner in the Signature Project competition, to Executive Director Honora Gathings and President Andrew Nix. (Photo by Patrice Stewart)

# Alabama wins KI honors in Pittsburgh

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

The Alabama District of Kiwanis took some big honors at the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 25-28.

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham won the top prize in the large club category of the annual Signature Project competition, while the Alabama District was recognized as a Distinguished District for the

third year in a row.

Past Governor Keith McKendall and Executive Director Tammy Driskill were told in the spring that Alabama would be honored as a Distinguished District for 2023-24 by Katrina Baranko of Albany, Georgia, who served as international president in 2023-24.

She chose a Pittsburgh riverboat dinner cruise as the place to present these honors for

(See HONORS, Page 5)



Past Governor Keith McKendall shows the Alabama District's recognition as a Distinguished District for 2023-24, his year as governor. A photo of the presentation by Past Kiwanis International President Katrina Baranko is on Page 5.

Watch for new information and opportunities through the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation

# Kiwanis year nears end, but we'll continue to build, nurture, retain

It is hard to believe that we are now in the fourth quarter of another Kiwanis year.

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

It is important that we understand why we call "Build. Nurture. Retain." an initiative, not a campaign. That is because campaigns have a beginning and an end.



## From the Governor

By Paul England

"Build. Nurture. Retain." is an ongoing effort designed to help growth become a part of the Kiwanis culture. The focus is on building new clubs, nurturing new and existing clubs, and retaining members by providing unsurpassed service experience.

We have successfully organized three new Kiwanis clubs in the Alabama District this Kiwanis year and have as our goal to successfully open two more before Sept. 30.

We plan to organize a Kiwanis club in Athens during the week of July 28. This effort is being led by our Division 1 Lt. Governor Bruce McLellan and our Membership Chair Rogena Woods. Sponsors are the Decatur club and the Rogersville club.

We plan to organize a Clay County club in September to close out a successful year and have positive momentum as we head to the new 2025-26 Kiwanis year beginning Oct. 1.

## Good showing in Pittsburgh

I am happy to say that the Alabama District met its registration goal of 28 for the Kiwanis International Conven-



A pretty sunset and one of the many bridges over Pittsburgh's rivers provide a backdrop for Governor Paul England and his wife, Debbie. They were on a walkway overlooking the water behind the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. (Photo by Patrice Stewart)

tion in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 25-28. Thank you all for your efforts.

I believe that we brought the Alabama weather north for the convention week, as it was very warm in Pittsburgh. The convention was well-organized, and there were many workshop and fellowship opportunities available.

Our Alabama District received several notable honors at the convention:

We were recognized as a Distinguished District for our 2023-2024 accomplishments. Congratulations again to Immediate Past Governor Keith McKendall and to Executive Director Tammy Driskill.

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham received the top honor for their Signature Project submission in the large club division.

I also want to congratulate the Rogersville club. Their signature project was selected as Alabama's entry in the small club division. While they did not win, their members were selected to be presenters at a conven-

tion workshop on small club fundraising success stories.

Our very own Kiwanis International Trustee Scott Sims of the Homewood-Mountain Brook club served as the host of the Service Leadership Program luncheon, which honored our sponsored youth activities and highlighted Key Club's 100th anniversary.

Our Alabama Circle K program for college students also represented us well during the convention, where

many speakers and programs were jointly attended by Kiwanis and CKI members.

Montgomery Kiwanian and retiring CKI District

Administrator Peck Fox was recognized at the Circle K convention for his outstanding service to the organization as he was awarded the Circle of Service award.

Our district also was proud to hear Taylor DiCicco of the University of Alabama speak several times as she closed out her year as CKI

(See GOVERNOR, next page)

*We've formed three new Kiwanis clubs in Alabama this year and are planning to organize two more by Sept. 30.*



## Governor

(From previous page)

international president.

The Alabama District enjoyed our fellowship with the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District at the Friday evening District Dinner. It is always nice to develop friendships with our fellow Kiwanis members from around the world.

Former KI Trustee Kathy Szymanski was elected vice president and will begin her new role on Oct 1. She served as Alabama's counselor from the KI Board of Trustees during 2019-20, under Past Governor Bob Brown's leadership.

Our current counselor, Jackie Sue McFarlin, will complete her term as a KI trustee Sept. 30. She has been very supportive of our district, and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

The proposed amendment to allow remote voting failed again this year.

### Help available for clubs

Alabama District Membership Chair Rogena 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](mailto:membership@alkiwanis.org).

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

Please make sure to send your dues payments and election reports to Kiwanis International on a timely basis. Our



Alabama District Governor Paul England, left, and Past Governor Keith McKendall, right, with Vice President Hope Markes of Hanover, Jamaica, between Kiwanis International Convention sessions in Pittsburgh. She was elected KI vice president a year ago and will be president-elect for 2025-26, serving with President Michael Mulhaul of Interlaken, New Jersey.

district 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.

Our communications officer, Brian Rodgers, can provide your clubs with Facebook pages and/or website assistance. Email him at [brianrodgers@gmail.com](mailto:brianrodgers@gmail.com).

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

I want to close by thanking you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Kiwanis Governor during 2024-25. It has been a fun year of service and travel.

I am also very appreciative of the support I always receive from my wife, Debbie. We have traveled the Kiwanis journey for many years and have met so many great people throughout the Kiwanis family.

While I will pass the torch to Seth Edgil on Oct. 1, I will remain on our board for 2025-26 as immediate past Governor and continue to help our district in service and growth.

### District Convention

Our Alabama District Convention will be held Aug. 15-16 in Gulf Shores at the Lodge at Gulf State Park. This will be a fun time to enjoy the beach and Kiwanis fellowship.

This resort is nestled on the sands of a great Alabama beach, with the state park, bay and fishing pier nearby. The accommodations and food are first class, and we are planning dinners featuring shrimp and steak.

On Saturday morning, Chris Singleton will be our featured speaker. Look at his information, and then listen to see how he successfully turned a personal tragedy into a positive message.

This will be a fun time to enjoy the beach and Kiwanis fellowship.

Registration for our District Convention opened June 1 and will close at noon on Sunday, Aug. 3. Please make every effort to attend, even if you can spend only Saturday with us. Register online from our district website at [alabama.kiwanis.org](http://alabama.kiwanis.org).

Thank you for all you do for the children of Alabama! I hope to see you at the beach!

## Alabama Kiwanis Kourier

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Address news, photos and other correspondence to:

**Patrice W. Stewart, Editor**

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

**Governor:** Paul England, Monroeville club, [englandp@icloud.com](mailto:englandp@icloud.com)

**Governor-elect:** Seth Edgil, Jasper club, [sjedgil@gmail.com](mailto:sjedgil@gmail.com)

**Vice Governor:** Rogena Woods, Greater Alabama club,  
[membership@alkiwanis.org](mailto:membership@alkiwanis.org)

**Past Governor:** Keith McKendall, Indian Springs club, [k\\_mckendall@yahoo.com](mailto:k_mckendall@yahoo.com)

**Executive Director:** Tammy Driskill, Gadsden club  
([dist\\_sec@alkiwanis.org](mailto:dist_sec@alkiwanis.org))

**District Office:** P.O. Box 8505, Gadsden, AL 35902, 256-504-9773

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

# Guest speakers at District Convention

The Alabama Kiwanis District Convention at Gulf Shores on Aug. 15-16 will include three guest speakers.

Dawn Hodges, Kiwanis International trustee counselor to Alabama, will give an update during Saturday's morning session and will install officers during that night's Governor's Banquet.

Chris Singleton will give the keynote speech Saturday morning, and Alex Hill will speak at the banquet.

KI trustee **Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges** of Greenwood, South Carolina, will serve as counselor to the Alabama District for 2025-26.

She was elected to a three-year term on the KI Board of Trustees at the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, Colorado. A Kiwanis member since 2000, she has served the Kiwanis Club of Greenwood as president (2009-10), secretary, service chair, service leadership program chair and programs chair. She has also served the Carolinas District as governor (2015-16), youth protection chair, membership chair and assistant district administrator for Circle K International. She is a Walter Zeller Fellow and a lifetime member of the Carolinas District.

An attorney specializing in child abuse and neglect cases, she has dedicated her life to improving the lives of children. Local elementary school children recognize her as "the Terrific Kid Lady" from her time handing out Terrific Kids program awards every month.

She has bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, as well as a law degree from the University of Kansas, and has served on the boards of many nonprofit organizations.



**Dawn Hodges**



**Chris Singleton**



**Alex Hill**

She and her spouse, Andrew, have one child.

**Chris Singleton** of Charleston, South Carolina, lost his mother in a 2015 racially motivated mass shooting in a Charleston church. He became an inspirational speaker and author of children's books. He is a former professional baseball player drafted by the Chicago Cubs.

**Alex Hill** is chief advancement officer for Lift Up the Vulnerable, a New York-based ecumenical Christian mission organization that works against trafficking and oppression of vulnerable children and women in war zones. He is a fundraising professional with an Auburn University degree in finance and marketing and experience in commercial banking. Hill's personal connection to LUV's mission stems from a sexual assault incident involving someone dear to him.

## Gulf Shores

(From Page 1)

desk will open, and attendees can enjoy the coastal breakfast buffet included with registration.

The Saturday morning general session will begin at 8:45 and will include the House of Delegates, election of officers, a Kiwanis International update by Trustee Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges, and other items.

Mike Tew has been nominated by his Dothan Kiwanis Club to run for vice governor. Current Vice Governor Rogenia Woods of the Greater Alabama Kiwanis Club will be up for governor-elect, and Governor-elect Seth Edgil of the Jasper and Trussville clubs will seek the post of governor.

Keynote speaker Chris Singleton, whose mother was killed in a mass shooting at a Charleston, South Carolina, church, is scheduled for 10:45 a.m.

A delicatessen-style lunch buffet

will begin at 12:15 p.m. Past governors will meet at 1:30. Other Kiwanians will have the afternoon to enjoy the beach, pool, state park, fishing pier, kayaking or paddleboarding, friends and family.

Saturday evening events will begin at 6:30 with a reception with cash bar. The Governor's Banquet is scheduled for 7 p.m., with a plated dinner of grilled New York strip steak and grilled shrimp.

The banquet speaker will be Alex Hill, chief advancement officer for Lift Up the Vulnerable, an organization that works against trafficking and oppression of women and children in war zones.

Visiting KI Trustee Dawn Hodges will install officers elected earlier Saturday, plus lieutenant governors.

This year there will be no meetings on Sunday morning, but the memorial list of Kiwanians who died in the past

year will be read during Saturday meetings.

Convention registration is \$200, including meetings and Saturday breakfast and lunch. See the online registration information for registration, dinner and package pricing.

Kiwanians may sign up for all four meals or choose breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Add \$50 for the Friday dinner and \$75 for the Saturday dinner. A non-Kiwanian meal plan also is available.

The deadline was July 16 for room reservations at the Lodge at Gulf State Park at the Kiwanis convention rate. Rooms may be available there and at other beach hotels and condo rentals.

You can see the schedule and sign up for the convention at [tinyurl.com/kiwanis-dcon-25](https://tinyurl.com/kiwanis-dcon-25).







Tammy Driskill, left, Alabama District executive director, and 2023-24 Governor Keith McKendall with their certificates designating Alabama as a Distinguished District for the third year in a row. Kiwanis' 2023-24 International President Katrina Baranko, center, made the presentation. Andrew Nix, president of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, with the replica check his club received as the top winner for large clubs in the Signature Project competition.

## Honors

(From Page 1)

achievements by 14 districts (of about 50 Kiwanis districts around the world).

The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham learned a couple of months before the convention that it was one of 10 finalists in the Signature Project large club category (it was Alabama's entry for clubs with 28 or more members). The 2025 competition drew 519 entries from around the world.

Birmingham Kiwanis President Andrew Nix and Executive Director Honora Gathings represented the club at the convention but did not learn that Birmingham took the gold prize and \$2,000 until after all finalists were shown on video and winners announced at the end of the Signature Project breakfast June 26.

The Birmingham club's project, "Kiwanis Reads," involves everyone from Santa Claus to Chicken Little to encourage children to read.

In four years, the program has brought books into the schools and homes of 20,000 children. In this literacy program, Kiwanians visit 900 preschools in Birmingham twice a year (sometimes in costumes) to read to students and give each one a book to build their own home libraries. Each book contains a Kiwanis bookplate with a QR code that leads to a video of a Kiwanis club member reading the book aloud — an extra tool to help kids in homes where there might not be an adult available to read in English.

Recently, Kiwanis Reads received a club grant from the Kiwanis Children's

Fund; expanded into 10 new schools, allowing the club to serve 300 more students; and partnered with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office to restart the "Books Not Bullets" program, providing books for police officers to hand out on patrol. School officials say students are increasing their vocabulary and reading fluency by reading aloud while learning to associate reading with fun.

The silver prize in the large club category went to the Kiwanis Club of West St. Andrew in the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District for its Ferry Community Health and Dental Fair. Winning the bronze award was the Kiwanis Club of Brandon in the Western Canada District for its annual Kiwanis Kar Derby.

Among small clubs with 27 or fewer members, winners were: gold, Kiwanis Club of Stunning Davao in the Southern Philippine District for Nature Warriors: Kids Learning to Protect Nature; silver, the Kiwanis Club of Sydney in the Australia District for Comfort Care Cases for kids; and bronze, Kiwanis Club of North Suburban Saint Paul in the Minnesota-Dakotas District for Kiwanis Malt Shop at the Minnesota State Fair.

Gold winners received \$2,000 to help with club projects, while silver awards came with \$1,500 and bronze with \$1,000.

Information on the Signature Projects of the 10 finalists in large and

small categories can be found on the Kiwanis International website. Also, the spring 2025 issue of the Kiwanis Kourier included information on the two projects chosen to represent Alabama in the competition.

The Rogersville club was the Alabama District's entry in the small club division. While it was not a finalist, convention delegates Brandi Angus and Angela Stansell were asked to talk about their club's Hamburger Day and other projects in a workshop on fundraising for small clubs.

*Rogersville delegates Brandi Angus and Angela Stansell spoke about their club's Hamburger Day in a workshop for small clubs.*

Several more of Alabama's 28 registered delegates helped in various ways at the convention; you can see their involvement in photos

throughout this issue of the Kiwanis Kourier. Trustee Scott Sims presided at the Service Leadership Program Luncheon, and Governor Paul England helped with an educational session (read more about Alabama participation in his column on Pages 2 and 3).

Past Governor Keith McKendall and Dr. Rosalynn Crawford McKendall served as sergeants at arms.

The Circle K International Convention shared some speakers and events with Kiwanians, including speeches by Circle K International President Taylor DiCicco from the University of Alabama chapter. Retiring CKI Administrator Peck Fox of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery won the 2025 Circle of Service honor.

# Bradshaw praises work for kids

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

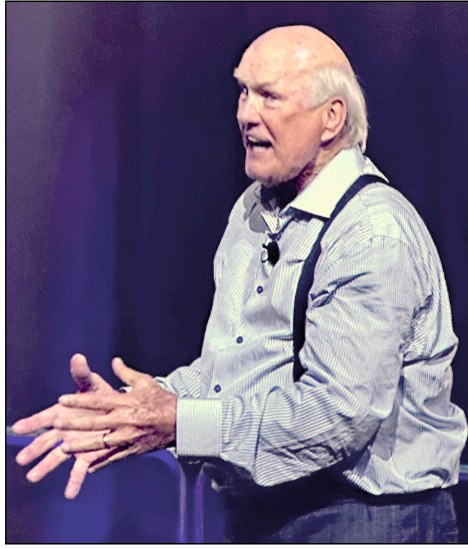
First, Kiwanis International planned for “The Fonz” of “Happy Days” to give the keynote address at the KI Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

After Henry Winkler had to cancel, they booked Martin Sheen of another popular TV show, “The West Wing.”

But when Sheen’s plans changed only four days out, the KI staff turned to football and found a popular solution who was going to be in Pittsburgh at convention time.

Terry Bradshaw, former NFL quarterback for 14 seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, won four Super Bowls in the 1970s — and on June 26, he won the hearts of Kiwanians visiting Pittsburgh.

He retired from playing after the 1983 season and became a television



Former NFL quarterback Terry Bradshaw speaks during the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh.

football analyst. He also pursued acting in TV and films and even sang a bit of gospel and country music. In 2020, he and his family began a reality TV series named “The Bradshaw Bunch.”

Bradshaw admitted he had to read up on Kiwanis before his talk. “I knew what you were but not what you did,” he said at the opening session.

The 76-year-old told Kiwanians: “Y’all are the most wonderful people in the world, because you care.... I wonder what would happen if Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk put their money to work for children. ...

“Love, kindness, support ... for me, that would be greater than any rocket to Mars. ...

“We can have a great mission in life, but we’ve gotta have doers ... and here you are. Nothing is more important than what you’re doing.”

## Remember Mister Rogers: Be one of ‘the helpers’

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

Another famous television personality also had a background in Pittsburgh.

For his convention opening act, Kiwanis International President Lee Kuan Yong of Malaysia did a tribute to Fred Rogers of the popular children’s television show “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” which aired from 1968 to 2001.

He came onstage to the show’s theme song, “It’s a beautiful day in this neighborhood.” Then he sat on a bench to take off his outdoor shoes and put on sneakers, hung his jacket on a hall tree and put on a Mister Rogers-style crimson cardigan sweater.

During the week, many Kiwanians visited the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh and viewed the exhibit featuring the original TV show sets and puppets, as well as many of Mister Rogers’ sweaters.

The actor, producer, author and minister was married to Joanne Rogers for 51 years. He died of cancer in 2003 at age 74. His boyhood home is in Latrobe, about 40 miles outside Pittsburgh, and he was interred in a family



Kiwanis International President Lee Kuan Yong (left) performed a tribute to “Mister Rogers” — Fred Rogers, whose PBS show started in Pittsburgh and is represented by a lifelike figure in the Heinz History Center there (right).

mausoleum in Unity Cemetery there.

The show, known for its simple messages of acceptance, kindness and empathy, was produced locally from 1966 to 1968, when it made its national debut.

Here are a couple of famous quotes from Mister Rogers that may have special meaning for Kiwanians:

■ “In every neighborhood, all across our country, there are good people insisting on a good start for the young, and doing something about it.”

■ “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my



mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ ”

The Kiwanis International President called Mister Rogers “an inspiring role model.” Then he talked about his own goals for Kiwanis.

“You’ve heard me say that opening a new club is the most important service work of all,” he said, encouraging members to build, nurture and retain clubs.

“And our Signature Projects show the impact a Kiwanis club can have on a community.”



# Cathy Szymanski wins KI election for vice president

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

The election of officers and a vote on whether to allow secure remote voting in the future were at the top of the agenda during the Kiwanis International Convention House of Delegates in Pittsburgh on Saturday, June 28.

For a second year in a row, remote voting was voted down. For now, Kiwanians from around the world must continue to register as delegates and attend the business session at a KI convention to vote on officers, dues increases, amendments to bylaws and other issues.

The main contested election was a four-person race for KI vice president, a position that usually leads to president-elect and then president.

Cathy Szymanski of Erie, Pennsylvania, won the final ballot for vice president after a runoff. During her time on the KI Board of Trustees, she served as counselor to the Alabama District and visited the Alabama District Convention.

Other candidates were three KI trustees: Alabama's current trustee counselor, Jackie Sue McFarlin of Othello, Washington; former trustee counselor to Alabama Gary Jander of San Diego, California; and Chuck Fletcher of Frankfort, Kentucky.

For 2025-26, Szymanski will join officers who were confirmed to move up. Michael Mulhaul of Interlaken, New Jersey, was officially elected president, and Hope Markes of Hanover, Jamaica, was elected president-elect. Current KI President Lee Kuan Yong of Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, will remain on the board as immediate past president.

In trustee elections for three-year terms beginning Oct. 1, two slots were available for the United States and Pacific Canada region, with only two candidates. Timothy Shep-

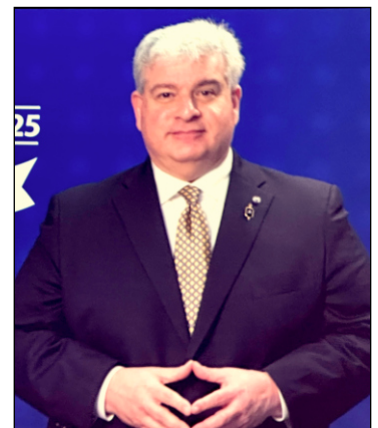


Former Trustee Cathy Szymanski of Pennsylvania won the KI vice president post and waves from the stage (top photo) with President-elect Michael Mulhaul of New Jersey, left, and Trustee Scott Sims of Alabama. Alabama delegates Keith and Rosalynn McKendall congratulated her after the win (center). New trustees elected were Amy Zimmerman of Ohio and Timothy Sheppard of Wyoming.



pard of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Amy Zimmerman of Beavercreek, Ohio, were elected.

Also joining the board in October will be Shinichi Yoshikuni of Tokyo, Japan, who was elected as a Kiwanis International trustee for the Asia-Pacific Region during the Asia-Pacific Convention in March, and Jon-Fadri Huder of Samedan, Switzerland, who was elected as a trustee for the Europe Region during the KI Europe Convention in May.



The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees gathered on stage after elections during the Pittsburgh convention. At right is Paul Palazzolo, KI executive director.

**Have Kiwanis questions? Call Executive Director Tammy Driskill, 256-504-9773**



# Alabamian Scott Sims will counsel N.Y., Panama, Ohio as a KI trustee

**By Patrice Stewart**

Kiwanis Kourier editor

Summer is a busy time for Kiwanis International Trustee Scott Sims of Homewood.

It started with a Board of Trustees meeting and the KI Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 25-28, followed by the Key Club International Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Next he will head to district conventions in Ohio, New York and Panama. Kiwanis International has assigned him as the trustee counselor to those three districts for 2025-26.

The first-year KI trustee was elected a year ago at the KI convention in Denver. Under his leadership as governor for 2021-22, Alabama was named a Distinguished District.

Sims and his wife, sons and daughter have many years of involvement and service with Key Club. The 1983-84 Alabama Key Club District Governor, Scott Sims was tapped to preside at the KI annual Service Leadership Program Luncheon on June 27 in Pittsburgh.

As attendees celebrated the 100th anniversary of Key Club with cake, Sims said from the podium, "This club has truly changed my life — and the lives of some other Key Club members — and we couldn't do it without Kiwanis."

Taylor DiCicco, a University of Alabama Circle K member, spoke as she wrapped up her year as international president. Circle K International also conducted meetings and elections in Pittsburgh that week, sharing some speakers and events with Kiwanis. Key Club International President David Robaina of Phoenix, Arizona, also talked about his experiences.

After those two K-Family members spoke, Sims noted, "Although we celebrate 100 years today, this is only the beginning. The future of our service to the world is bright."

Next, Sims headed for Orlando, where the Key Club International Convention was held July 2-6. The 100th



**Scott Sims (top) with Panama delegates to the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh. Their native costumes attracted attention. At bottom left, he meets with Panama's representatives about their coming District Convention, which he will attend. At bottom right, Sims reconnects in Pittsburgh with a former Key Club member who wants to build Kiwanis in the United Kingdom.**

anniversary year of Key Club was celebrated again — by teenage delegates.

## Reconnecting

Each past president of Key Club International could say a few words about Key Club during the program. Alabama has provided about a dozen international presidents, and Sims was able to reconnect with several at the Orlando celebration.

He also got a glimpse of son William Sims, Key Club International President

in 2016-17, who made his comments on video. W.B. Sims and band have performed live for Key clubbers and Kiwanians at a couple of recent conventions. He is workforce development coordinator for Airbus in Mobile, Alabama, and travels for country music performances on weekends.

Scott Sims, a Birmingham attorney and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Homewood-Mountain Brook, was assigned as counselor to three districts

**(See SCOTT SIMS, next page)**





During the Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Scott Sims and other trustees appeared in videos featuring landmarks from their own districts, including his video about Alabama. At right, he is at a reception with Malaysia District Governor Olivia Chin (front left) and others. At left below, he speaks with Mark Waters, president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Decatur, Alabama.



## Scott Sims

(From previous page)

for the current Kiwanis year: Colombia, Ecuador and Minnesota-Dakotas. He traveled to all those District Conventions.

While visiting London last year, Sims met with former Key Club members who want to build up Kiwanis in the United Kingdom. He reconnected with these coordinators in Pittsburgh.

For 2025-26, he will be touching base regularly and advising the

Panama District, as well as the Ohio and New York districts.

At ICON in Pittsburgh, he met with representatives of those districts to coordinate plans for attending their District Conventions.

Sims plans to attend four District Conventions in August, beginning with Ohio and then traveling to New York.

His plans include visiting his home district of Alabama's convention in Gulf Shores on Aug. 15-16 and then heading to Panama later in August.



Alabama's Scott Sims learned more about plans for 2025-26 in a workshop (left photo) at the Pittsburgh convention. He presided at the Service Leadership Program luncheon (center). At the end of the general business session, he moved from his seat with the Alabama delegation to join his fellow international trustees and new officers on the stage.





# River cruise

## *Pittsburgh convention*

Several Alabama delegates went on a dinner cruise along Pittsburgh's rivers on Wednesday, June 25. Several classes of governors were aboard, along with KI 2023-24 President Katrina Baranko's Distinguished District honorees. The lighted bridges and convention center were even more impressive from the water.



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





## District caucus

*Pittsburgh  
convention*



At the Alabama District caucus Friday morning, June 27, in the Convention Center, delegates heard from Governor Paul England and Immediate Past Governor Keith McKendall about issues to be voted on during the Saturday House of Delegates business session.



## Volunteering as sergeants at arms

For the Kiwanis International convention in Pittsburgh, Past Governor Keith McKendall and Dr. Rosalynn Crawford McKendall answered a call for volunteers to serve as sergeants at arms. They are members of Alabama's Indian Springs Village Kiwanis Club. She is shown directing delegates in the lunch area of the exhibit hall and, on election day, passing out handheld voting machines. Keith McKendall, wearing the sergeant at arms' white armband, handled stage duties, backstage access and lunch hall duties. As a sergeant at arms, you can meet people, too, such as International President Lee Kuan Yong of Malaysia.



Watch for new information and opportunities through the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation





## Districts' dinner

### *Pittsburgh convention*

Alabama District and Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District representatives gathered to socialize and enjoy a catered dinner Friday evening, June 27, at Bill's Bar & Burgers near the Convention Center in Pittsburgh. (Photos by Steve Stewart and Patrice Stewart)







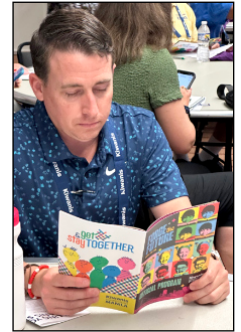
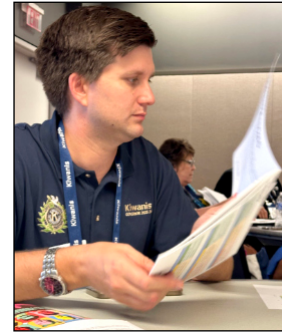
## Delegate session

### *Pittsburgh convention*

Delegates sat by districts during the Saturday, June 28, House of Delegates, where elections and business are handled. Past Governor Keith McKendall was in line to speak at the microphone, below, when time was called on the topic of remote voting.







# Pittsburgh

*KI Convention, June 25-28*

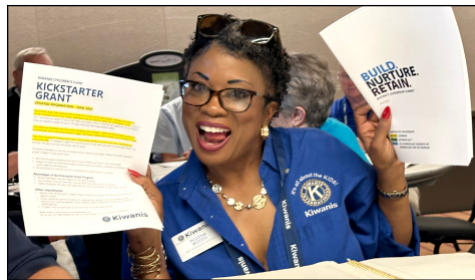


*Photos  
by  
Patrice  
Stewart*



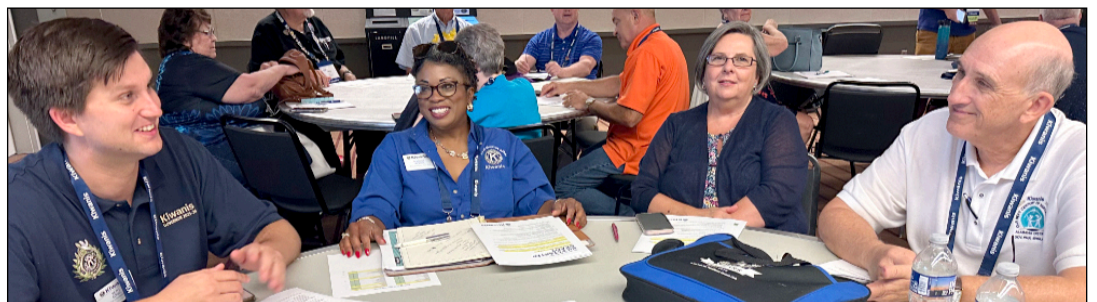
**Make annual donations to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and Kiwanis Children's Fund**





# Pittsburgh

*KI Convention, June 25-28*



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





# Pittsburgh

*KI Convention, June 25-28*



Watch for new information and opportunities through the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation





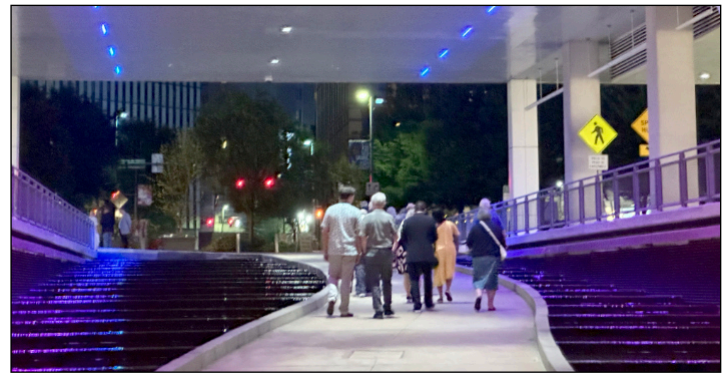
# Pittsburgh

*KI Convention, June 25-28*



**Register by noon Aug. 3 for District Convention at Gulf Shores Aug. 15-16, 2025**





# Pittsburgh

*KI Convention, June 25-28*



**The 2026 KI Convention is planned for June 25-27 in Manila, Philippines**





Alabama's Taylor DiCicco, left, gives one of her last speeches as international president of Circle K to Kiwanians at the Pittsburgh convention. At right, in Pittsburgh for the CKI convention are Assistant CKI Administrator Martin Nguyen, CKI Past Governor Amiya Ross and Past CKI Administrator Peck Fox with Taylor DiCicco.



## DiCicco concludes year as CKI president

Taylor DiCicco, a Circle K International member at the University of Alabama, wrapped up her 2024-25 year of service as international president at the June CKI and Kiwanis conventions in Pittsburgh.

She is ready for her next challenge, thanks to Kiwanis, CKI and the University of Alabama.

In Pittsburgh, DiCicco spoke at a Kiwanis convention session and also at its Service Leadership Program lun-

cheon. She also presided at many CKI events.

"Your support has affected the lives of many students," she told Kiwanians. "Thank you for supporting us, not just for today, but for who we are becoming."

DiCicco earned her bachelor's degree in finance and political science from the University of Alabama. She decided to stay in Tuscaloosa as a Blackburn Institute Fellow and work

on a Master of Business Administration degree in the Manderson MBA program at UA's Culverhouse College of Business.

She did that while also serving as the international president of Circle K, the collegiate service organization sponsored by Kiwanis.

With MBA in hand, she is starting a new position at Regions Bank as a mortgage servicing rights valuation analyst.



## Key Club celebrates in Orlando

The Great Alabama District of Key Club was represented well at the Key Club International Convention and 100th anniversary celebration in Orlando on July 2-6. The delegation was led by 2025-26 Alabama Key Club Governor Kamden Moore and other officers; they are shown in a photo with Michael Mulhaul of New Jersey, who will serve as president of Kiwanis International beginning Oct. 1. Alabama District Key Club Administrator Marla Hines, Kiwanis International Trustee Scott Sims and others from Alabama also attended the celebration of 100 years of service and leadership by this Kiwanis-sponsored international club for high school students.



# Peck Fox receives Circle of Service Award



At the CKI closing banquet in Pittsburgh, International President Taylor DiCicco presents the Circle of Service Award to Peck Fox, retired Alabama District's CKI administrator.

Peck Fox was honored with the 2025 Circle of Service Award from Circle K International during the college organization's June convention in Pittsburgh.

The Circle of Service Award was created to recognize and honor each year an individual within Kiwanis International for lifetime contributions. Nominations are submitted before each international convention and voted on by the Circle K International Board.

Fox, who recently retired after several years as Alabama District Administrator for CKI, was at the Pittsburgh CKI convention to support Alabama's Taylor DiCicco during her last days as international president of CKI. Then he was the one who was surprised at the CKI banquet.

"I was caught speechless, which for me is an unfamiliar occurrence," Fox said. "... I am honored to be so recognized, and humbled to follow in the footsteps of prior Alabama awardees like Critt Snell-

grove, David Womack, Steve Means, Bob Palmer and Allan Hayse. And best of all, Taylor made the presentation! ...

"To all the Circle K members and Kiwanians I have been privileged to work with, thank you."

Fox also was recognized for his contributions at his final Alabama Circle K District Convention in March.

In addition, his club — the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery — recently honored him with a plaque and thanked him for his dedication to Kiwanis and commitment to furthering the mission of Circle K International: working to develop college and university students into a global network of responsible citizens and leaders with a lifelong commitment to service.

Fox, an attorney, and his wife are planning to spend some retirement time in Virginia to be closer to their son, daughter and son-in-law, all of whom were active in Circle K.

## Dothan's Critt Snellgrove attends 60th CKI, 50th KI convention



Critt Snellgrove, right, of the Dothan Kiwanis Club has a long history of attending K-Family conventions. He is shown with Alabama Kiwanis Governor Paul England at the June 25-28 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Circle K International, the college-age club, also met. Snellgrove, who will be 78 on Sept. 12, 2025, said that was his 60th CKI convention and his 50th KI convention. A CKI member in his college days, he is a longtime Kiwanian and member of the District Board for Circle K and Kiwanis Committee on Circle K International.



## First member of new club in Athens

Plans have been made to build new Alabama District clubs in Athens and in Clay County, according to Membership Chair and Vice Governor Rogena Woods. Work began in Athens during the last week of July. Division 1 Lt. Governor Bruce McLellan is shown signing up the first charter member, Vicki Donahue.

## Club Leadership Education sessions are available online during August

All incoming club presidents, secretaries, treasurers and membership chairs are encouraged to take advantage of training offered for various club positions.

In addition to attending district-led Club Leadership Education (CLE), officers for 2025-26 can sign up for Kiwanis International's free, online

CLE sessions as supplemental training.

Kiwanis International has announced virtual options coming up in August:

■ Club president training: Monday, Aug. 4, 7-8:30 p.m. CT

■ Club secretary training: Tuesday, Aug. 5, 7-8:30 p.m. CT

■ Club treasurer training: Wednesday,

Aug. 6, 7-8:30 p.m. CT

■ Club membership chair training: Monday, Aug. 11, 7-8:30 p.m. CT

■ Kiwanis Engage for club leaders: Tuesday, Aug. 12, 8-8:30 p.m. CT

Register in advance by clicking [tinyurl.com/virtual-cle](https://tinyurl.com/virtual-cle) for virtual Club Leadership Education sessions.



# Foundation can help your club serve

## By Colean Black

President-elect  
Alabama Kiwanis Foundation

Established in 1988 as a 501(c)(3) organization, the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation strengthens the work of Kiwanis throughout the state by supporting local clubs, Service Leadership Programs and initiatives that benefit at-risk children.

Through grant-making, program partnerships and fundraising support, we amplify the efforts of clubs across Alabama — fostering stronger communities and brighter futures for children, one project at a time.

You can make a difference through your support.

The foundation is a key resource for clubs, providing financial support and programming to maximize service impact across Alabama. Our Annual Gift Campaign is the heartbeat of our fundraising efforts. Each club is encouraged to give \$10 per member (based on Kiwanis International's Oct. 1 membership roster) to earn a banner patch and annual tab recognizing its commitment to collective service.

Whether large or small, every gift strengthens the reach and sustainability of our work.

Your contribution is a direct investment in the lives of Alabama's children and the communities we serve.

## Programs help children and clubs

These programs serve Alabama's children and clubs:

### ■ Alabama Spelling Bee

As the official sponsor of the Alabama affiliate of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation helps students shine on a statewide stage. Clubs are encouraged to support participation by helping local schools enroll and prepare their students for this enriching academic experience.

### ■ Matching Grant Program

Designed to empower local projects, this program offers up to \$2,000 in matching funds for club-led initiatives that serve children in Alabama. From literacy and health programs to community engagement and youth development, clubs can double their dollars by applying during one of two enrollment periods each year. Applications are accepted in January for awarding at the Mid-Winter Conference in February, and again in July for awarding at the District Convention in August. In 2024, these grants helped smaller clubs deliver outsized impact in their communities, proving that even modest resources — when matched — can produce meaningful change.

### ■ J. Mercer Barnett Fellowship Award

This award is named in honor of J. Mercer Barnett, a prominent Birmingham businessman who played a key role in establishing Kiwanis International as a service organization. He was the first Governor of the Alabama-Florida District of Kiwanis (1918-19) and the first Alabama Kiwanian to serve as Kiwanis International President (1920-21). This prestigious fellowship recognizes individuals who make a



Colean Black

donation of \$500 or more to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, either personally or in honor of another individual. An additional donation of \$500 or more upgrades the fellowship to the diamond level.

### ■ Kiwanis Impact Awards

The Kiwanis Impact Awards recognize members, celebrated by their clubs for outstanding service and community impact. Through a tiered program, clubs honor members with pins, certificates, and acrylic awards based on their donation levels of \$100, \$200 or \$300. These awards highlight dedication and leadership, fostering pride and connection within the Kiwanis community, while inspiring lasting service.

### ■ Joe Dean Legacy Fund

The Joe Dean Legacy Fund honors the life and leadership of the late Alabama District Governor Joe Dean and his enduring commitment to service. This fund recognizes individuals who make a charitable contribution of \$5,000 or more to the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation Inc. through an outright gift, bequest, estate plan, or pledge to be completed within five years. These planned or direct gifts are unrestricted and will be used by the foundation to further its mission — benefiting the children of Alabama for generations to come.

### ■ Pass-through donations

Your club can use the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation's 501(c)(3) status to process tax-deductible donations for community projects, giving your fundraising efforts credibility and flexibility while providing confidence to donors.

## How to get involved

■ Contribute to the Annual Gift Campaign to earn your club's banner patch and annual tab.

■ Apply for a Matching Grant to expand your club's service capacity.

■ Celebrate your members through the Kiwanis Impact Awards.

■ Recognize outstanding leadership with the J. Mercer Barnett Fellowship Award.

■ Support the Joe Dean Legacy Fund.

■ Share your club's successes in the Kiwanis Kourier by emailing photos and information to Kiwanis Kourier newsletter editor Patrice Stewart at [kiwaniskourier@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniskourier@gmail.com).

■ Partner with the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation to process pass-through donations or plan legacy gifts.

## Contact information

Have questions or want to get started?

Contact Foundation President-elect Colean Black at 205-936-7411 or [foundation@alkiwanis.org](mailto:foundation@alkiwanis.org) or visit [alabama.kiwanis.org](http://alabama.kiwanis.org).

Also note this new mailing address: Alabama Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 4151, Huntsville, AL 35815-4151.



# Clubs in Action



Kiwanis Club of Pike Road scholarship recipients are, from left, Sophia Bishop, Regan Frazer, Addison Little and Abigail Lugo Wenceslao. Runners of all ages participated in the 5K Family Fun Run on April 26 in The Waters neighborhood of Pike Road. The club organizes the annual event to raise money for college scholarships.

## Kiwanis Club of Pike Road awards \$8,000 in scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Pike Road awarded \$8,000 in college scholarships to four graduating seniors from local high schools.

Club President Steve Straughn announced the recipients at the Pike Road Town Council meeting on May 12. Each student received \$2,000. The recipients were:

■ Addison Little, Macon East Academy, headed to Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

■ Abigail Lugo Wenceslao, Pike Road High School, going to the University of South Alabama.

■ Regan Frazer, Macon East Academy, attending LaGrange College.

■ Sophia Bishop, Pike Road High School, headed to the University of North Alabama.

"The Kiwanis Club of Pike Road is a group of like-minded volunteers who are involved in projects that do make a difference," Straughn said.

"Our goal is to enhance the quality of life in our community. We serve together primarily to make an impact on our town by offering scholarships to worthy graduating seniors in the town of Pike Road, as well as participating in

other community events when help is needed."

The \$8,000 in scholarships for 2025 graduating seniors brought the total scholarships given by the club to \$27,000 in four years.

The club raises scholarship money by holding its 5K Family Fun Run in the spring and selling Christmas ornaments in the fall. The ornaments feature historic sites in Pike Road, Straughn said. The club welcomes new members. It meets at noon on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Cuco's Restaurant.



## Hartselle Kiwanis scholarships

Randy Garrison, Hartselle Kiwanis member and mayor of the city, represented the Kiwanis Club of Hartselle at the May presentation of the club's scholarships to graduating seniors Emma Lindsey, Marc Cera, Colter Moore and Creighton Snyder. The Kiwanis club also sponsors the annual Christmas parade in Hartselle and holds a golf fundraiser. "Here in our own community, the impact of Kiwanis is clear — from scholarships for students to events that bring families together and initiatives that make our neighborhoods stronger and more compassionate. Thank you to every Kiwanian for your service, your heart, and your vision. Together, you prove that small acts of kindness can ripple out to change lives," Garrison said. "Congratulations to these four young people, and best wishes as you move into the next chapter of your life."

*Is your club news not in The Kourier? It's probably because we didn't know about it. Email news to [kiwaniskourier@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniskourier@gmail.com).*



# Clubs in Action



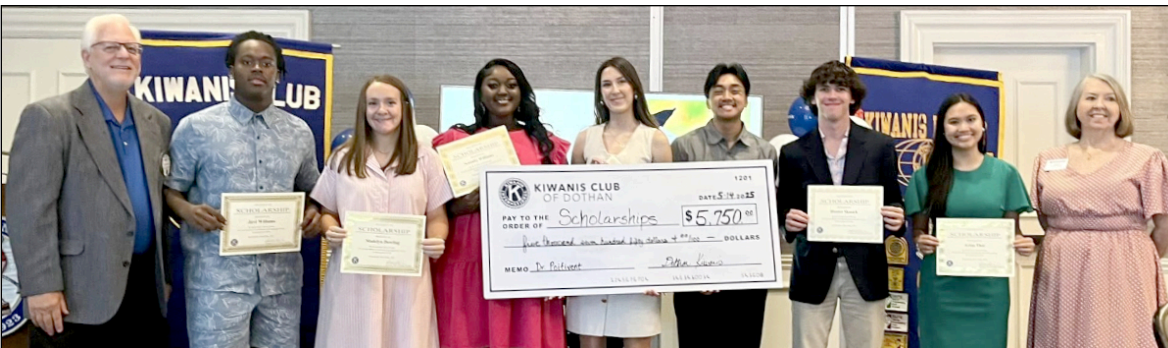
## Montgomery scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery recognized 2025 scholarship winners at the May 13 luncheon meeting. Winners of the Kiwanis Scholarships are Abby Wenceslao (Pike Road High School) and Sophie Creamer (home-school). Abby will attend the University of South Alabama and study nursing, and Sophie will attend Jacksonville State University and also study nursing. Mikiyah Washington (Montgomery Catholic High School) was presented the Donna Mac and Charles Savage Scholarship. Mikiyah plans to study business at the University of South Alabama.



## Huntsville honors 7 Key Club members

A total of \$8,000 in scholarship funds was presented to area students at the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville's May 5 meeting. Member Dale Kuehl presented the 2025 Kiwanis scholarship winners, all of whom were active in Key Club at their schools. From left are Shania Hughs, Grissom High School; Adelyn Hamren, New Century Technical High; Allyson Henry, Buckhorn High; Cidne Rhodes, Grissom High; Henry Miller, Buckhorn High; and Reanna Barlow, Westminster Christian Academy. Lauren Irons of Westminster Christian Academy was not able to attend; she and Shania Hughs received \$1,500 each, while the other scholarship recipients got \$1,000. Huntsville Kiwanians wished them all the best in their studies, careers and K-Family journeys.



## Dothan's 7 scholarships total \$5,750

The Kiwanis Club of Dothan held its annual scholarship award meeting May 14 at noon at Dothan Country Club. A total of \$5,750 was awarded to seven local Circle K and Key Club members to help further their education. Monies awarded were donated for this purpose by the late Dothan Kiwanis member Dr. Coy Poitevint. He served as a club president in the 1960s and then as a lieutenant governor. Shown with the scholarship recipients are Dothan Kiwanis President Bobby Landwehr, left, and Lt. Governor Pam Alexander, a Dothan past president, right. Receiving scholarships were Madelyn Dowling, Eu-

faula High School Key Club; Javé Williams, Eufaula High School Key Club; Serenity Williams, Enterprise High School Key Club; Reagan Bull, Enterprise State Community College Circle K; Christian Carlos, Enterprise State Circle K; Hunter Skasick, Cottonwood High School Key Club; and Arina Thai, Straughn High School Key Club. Also, two Kiwanians were presented George F. Hixson Fellowships: Tonya Cassady Vickers, club secretary, and Steve Courtoy, club treasurer. These awards, which benefit the Kiwanis International Children's Fund, recognize club members for their help and commitment to the organization.

*Are you supporting the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation? See Page 21 for all the ways you can help — and how it can help your club.*



# Clubs in Action



## Satellite club plants garden in Jasper

The new satellite group of the Kiwanis Club of Jasper has moved to the next level by starting its first service project. Members worked on the preparation and planting of a sunflower and wildflower garden at the Jasper Area Family Services Center. Members of the Walker County chapter of The Literacy Council assisted. The satellite group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Tallulah Kitchen & Brewery in Jasper, plus special service times, while the Kiwanis Club of Jasper meets with lunch at noon every Monday at Five Loaves cafeteria at Bevill State Community College.



## Jasper club awards 11 organization grants, 2 student scholarships

Eleven grants to deserving organizations were awarded June 2 by the Kiwanis Club of Jasper, along with two scholarships to recent Jasper High School graduates.

Grants were awarded to the following:

- Madi Patterson of the Master's Plan Ministries at the Pregnancy Test and Resource Center, to purchase car seats for expectant parents.

- Joanna Brand of the Arc of Walker County, to purchase testing supplies and sensory bags.

- Dr. Monisha Moore of The Bridge Educational Philanthropy, to update an outdoor space with tables and sunshades.

- Cassie Crowell of the Boys and Girls Club of Central Alabama, to purchase supplies for a robotics program.

- Johnny Sudberry of The Children's Advocacy Center of Walker County, for a summer program.

- Amanda Hill of the Literacy Council of Walker County, for a youth-led garden restoration called "Seeds of Success."

- Amanda Meuth, HIPPY coordinator for the Jasper Area Family Services Center, to purchase books for the 2025-2026 program.

- Jennifer Nichols of the Cordova High School DECA program, for up to 35 students to attend the Titan Learning Lab.

- Vernell Johnson of the Jasper Housing Authority, for children to attend the SKY program.

- Renae Wilson of Friends of Downtown Jasper/Jasper Main Street, for creating a coloring book "Touring Jasper with Tallulah," which includes the Kiwanis Club of Jasper.

- Becki Stallsmith of the Walker County Arts Alliance, to purchase musical instruments for the "Sounds of Second Grade" program.

The Kiwanis Club scholarships were awarded to Jasper High graduates Hudson Hand and Anley Payne.

## Jasper's Terry Gurganus honored with Hixson Award

Longtime Kiwanis Club of Jasper member Terry Gurganus was presented the George F. Hixson Fellowship Award during a recent club meeting. The Hixson Fellowship Award from the Kiwanis Children's Fund recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond in service, leadership and commitment to others. The award is named after George F. Hixson, the first president of Kiwanis International. At left is Jasper member and Alabama Kiwanis Governor-elect Seth Edgil.



**Save the date!**

**Alabama District Midwinter Conference**

March 6-8, 2026

**McDowell Conference & Retreat Center**

Nauvoo, Alabama

**Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is Oct. 10, 2025**



# Clubs in Action

## Monroeville awards 3 scholarships in memory of Kiwanian Sam Schjott

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville each year gives local scholarships in memory of a past president and lieutenant governor, Sam Schjott, who died during the Covid pandemic.

The 2025 recipients are John David Brewton and Noah Jordan, who both plan to attend Auburn University, and Eve Dees, who will study at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

The selection committee for the Sam Schjott Memorial Scholarships said that these three students “all represent things that we loved about Sam — a spirit of community engagement and a commitment to fostering that engagement via academic achievement.”



## Jasper Kiwanians hold Grits Drive

A “Grits Drive” with drop-off sites was held by the Kiwanis Club of Jasper. Club members then volunteered to help pack bags and deliver the donation of more than 1,400 servings of grits for Backyard Blessings. Each week during the past school year, Backyard Blessings delivered approximately 1,400 weekend food packs to students in area elementary schools.

## Vulcan club observes Juneteenth and raises funds for scholarships

The Vulcan Kiwanis Club recently held its third annual event to mark Juneteenth and raise funds for scholarships.

The brunch, held at Al-cove Birmingham, included food, music and an opportunity to honor a significant day in American history, all while raising money for scholarships for students in Birmingham city schools.

## 2 clubs support Walk for Epilepsy

Two Kiwanis clubs in the Mobile area — Semmes and Azalea City — supported the 2025 Walk for Epilepsy by collecting and bagging items for patients and taking them to USA Women’s and Children’s Hospital. They are calling them “Brain Buster Bags.” At the event, held June 28 at Battleship Park, are, from left, Keith Graham of Mobile, a past Kiwanis governor and current lieutenant governor; Jeremiah Stone of Birmingham, a former Key Club governor who is now executive director of the Gulf South territory of the Epilepsy Foundation; and Dee Dee Graham, a Kiwanis leader in the Mobile area with first-hand knowledge of the Epilepsy Foundation of Alabama. She said Stone and his board “did a wonderful job organizing this project, and we need people from our district to join.” Music, food and activities were all part of the event.

## Decatur’s Pancake Day pays for 5 students’ scholarships

The Decatur Kiwanis Club presented its annual college scholarships in May to four high school seniors, using funds raised during the club’s Pancake Day in February.

Recipients are Anaelisa Hernandez Ralios of Austin High School, Carmen Lyle of Decatur Heritage Christian Academy, Mattie Fite of Decatur High School and Molly McMahan of Austin High School.

The scholarships are \$1,000 each. The club also gives a \$1,000 scholarship to the Alabama Center for the Arts (a partnership between Calhoun Community College and Athens State University). The school decides who receives it.



# Clubs in Action



**St. Clair  
West  
raises  
funds  
with fancy  
pancakes**



Pancakes with syrup and butter are always good, but fancy pancakes are even better! Kiwanis Governor Paul England and wife Debbie visited the Kiwanis Club of St. Clair County West's fancy Pancake Cook-off while in Birmingham on May 3. They got to try pancakes with fruit toppings, little umbrellas and piles of whipped cream — a winner — and many other varieties. Various businesses and organizations had sampling booths that proved popular with the public, and this fundraiser brought in lots of people to learn about Kiwanis while sampling all types of pancakes, plus coffees and drinks by Baba Java. Tickets for adults were \$7 for the event, held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Moody City Park. Save this date for the 2026 cook-off in a new location with more interactive competition: May 2 at the St. Clair County Arena. Proceeds go to children's charities.



## Monroeville's 5th annual county rodeo Aug. 8-9

The fifth annual Monroe County Rodeo — a joint project of the Monroeville Kiwanis Club and the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce — is coming up Aug. 8-9.

The event will be held on Snider Avenue in Frisco City, just south of Monroeville. Gates will open at 6 p.m.

A crowd favorite, Mutton Bustin' for children, will begin at 7 p.m., with the rodeo starting at 7:30.

Kids ride sheep, and pre-registration with a \$25 fee is required for Mutton Bustin'; no signups will be allowed at the gate. One entry ticket is included with the \$25 fee.

Rodeo tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce office and other locations. Prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for ages 4-12 (free for children 3 and under).

For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (251) 743-2879, or check the website: [monroecountyal.com](http://monroecountyal.com).

Proceeds from the rodeo will benefit the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville's many children's projects, such as Angel Tree, Monroe County Library, Monroeville YMCA, Monroe County Education Foundation, and scholarships.



A child rides a sheep during the popular Mutton Bustin' for children event at a previous Monroe County Rodeo. Pre-registration with a \$25 fee is required, with no signups for this popular event allowed at the gate. One entry ticket is provided with every \$25 registration.

The two-night, family-friendly event is sanctioned by the Professional Cowboy Association and contracted with Bo Campbell Rodeo Productions.



# Clubs in Action

## Team of 4 teenagers wins Hartselle club's golf scramble

The Kiwanis Club of Hartselle's fifth annual Golf Scramble served youth in more ways than fundraising.

A team of four teens from Hartselle High School claimed top honors, shooting 20 under par to win first place in the event held June 13 at Point Mallard Golf Course in Decatur.

And one of those teens also won a gas grill donated by Lowe's as a door prize.

A team from All Seasons Heating and Air placed second, while the Higdon Team from Redstone Realty Solutions took third.

Strong business support included sponsorships and swag bag items. Door prizes valued at more than \$1,300 were donated by local businesses.

Kiwanis President Greg Lane said they reached their goal plus \$3,000. While the club usually gives four

scholarships to graduating seniors each year, the extra proceeds could help provide more scholarships.

Lane said the club is looking forward to putting the money to work in the community. Funds from the golf scramble also will benefit ongoing community initiatives, including partnerships with the Housing Authority, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and the Morgan County Sheriff's Posse.



### Dothan: \$49,175 for charities

Golf tournaments can be big fundraisers for Kiwanis clubs, as shown in the photo from Dothan's June 5 event with the big check for \$49,175 made out to "Local Charities of Alabama Children" above a Kiwanis information table and poster featuring club activities. The Kiwanis Club of Dothan started holding its Golf Classic in 1991. Now, in addition to its continuous support of many local charities, the club is focusing on getting a Sheriffs' Youth Ranch in Houston County. Words to live by can be found on the poster: "We accomplish so much more when we serve together."



### Headland helps community center

The Kiwanis Club of Headland held its second golf tournament June 13 with the proceeds benefiting a local community center. The Center, in honor of Rev. Dr. C.S. Pope, plays a crucial role for youth, with summer and after-school programs. It also provides recreational programs for senior citizens, GED classes through Wallace Community College and other community services. It also houses a barber shop, a nail salon and an eatery called Sister's Soul Express. For the three-person team, the entry fee was \$150. The event at Headland Country Club included door prizes, cash prizes and lunch.

## YMCA gives lifetime philanthropy award to Montgomery Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery recently was honored by the YMCA of Greater Montgomery with the prestigious John 17:21 award.

This lifetime achievement award in

philanthropy is based on this verse, which states "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent

Me."

The award is in recognition of the Kiwanis club's more than \$800,000 in donations to the YMCA over the past 70 years.



# Clubs in Action

## Monroeville tribute to Margaret Murphy — Kiwanian, teacher, author



Several members of a special family visited the Kiwanis Club of Monroeville in April. The late Dr. Margaret Murphy, who died March 6, 2025, was a past president of the club and a two-term Kiwanis lieutenant governor. She was awarded the Legion of Honor for 25 years of service to Kiwanis and also was named Kiwanian of the Year. A granddaughter, Brooke Higdon Hudson, talked about “Mama Bee” and how special she was to her family, community and Kiwanis. A college teacher of English, speech and other subjects, Margaret Murphy published books of bedtime stories she made up for her five children. Titles included “Bee My Friend,” “Tommy Turtle,” “Georgie Grasshopper” and more. After retiring in 1999, she developed a “Mama Bee” costume and began going to schools to read her stories to classes — especially those including her 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.



Margaret Murphy



## Jasper honors West Point graduate

Thomas Ward of Jasper, who recently graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, was honored at the June 2 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Jasper. Ward, who earned a bachelor of science degree in political science and served as senior class president, was presented resolutions by former state Sen. Greg Reed (left) and state Sen. Matt Woods. “We are incredibly proud of his accomplishments and appreciate his service to our nation,” said Woods.



## Tuscumbia program: ‘Kids to Love’

Lee Marshall, founder and CEO of Kids to Love, recently presented a program for the Kiwanis Club of Tuscumbia. A nonprofit organization, Kids to Love helps find foster and adoptive families and also provides for children's immediate needs like clothing, food and school supplies, as well as offering educational scholarships to foster children. From left are Chad Smith, club host, speaker Lee Marshall and Tiffany Noel.