

April 2020

# Kiwanis®

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News



**Hammond Kiwanis Provides  
Happy Packs for Happy Hearts**

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



## ON THE COVER:

HAPPY PACKS FOR HAPPY HEARTS - Hammond Kiwanis Club member Judy Couvillion is showered with hugs from elementary students as she enters one of the classrooms where backpacks with food items for the weekend are distributed.

*See more on Pages 21-23.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 3*

### DISTRICT NEWS

- 4 Kiwanis Moments from the Governor
- 5 LOVE IT - Kiwanis
- 6 Planning for the 2020-2021 Year

### THE FOUNDATION

- 7 Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
- 7 Foundation Awards Circle K Scholarships
- 8 Foundation Awards Key Club Scholarships
- 9 Friends of the Foundation

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10 Key Leader North Rescheduled to September 25-27
- 11 The Challenges of the Current Crisis
- 12 Eliminate
- 12 Aspire to Inspire: The Wuhan Worry . . . YET
- 13 Kiwanis Children's Fund
- 13 District Recognition of Lay Person of the Year

### K-KIDS NEWS

- 14 Sticking the K-Kids' Name out There!
- 14 K-Bear Makes the Rounds
- 15-16 Martin K-Kids: Enthusiastic about Learning
- 16 Central Elementary K-Kids: Service from the Heart

### AKTION CLUB NEWS

- 17 AKtion Club Volunteers at Humane Society

### KEY CLUB NEWS

- 18 A Mardi Gras Ball for All
- 18 Sending Valentines' Day Love
- 18 Zachary Key Clubber Participates in Cooking Challenge

### CIRCLE K CLUB NEWS

- 19 Successful DCON Held in Vicksburg, MS

### CLUB NEWS

- 20 Cortana Hosts Pet Parade at Assisted Living Facility
- 21-23 Hammond Provides Happy Packs for Happy Hearts

## CLUB NEWS CONTINUED

- 24 Action at the Pinewood Derby with Martin Kiwanis
- 24 Tupelo Celebrates Presidents' Day
- 25 Divisions 8E & 8W Presidents' Council Meeting
- 25 St. Gabriel Collaborates with First Lady
- 26 Red Stick Kiwanis Recognizes Featured Members
- 27 Southwest Lafayette Hosts Scholarship & Awards Banquet
- 28 Tupelo Provides Indoor Playground for Autism Center

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON FACEBOOK

- 29 Acadiana Helps Moms and Babies
- 29 Baton Rouge Kiwanis in Action!
- 30 Camellia City, Slidell Helps with Food Drive
- 30 Corinth Hosts 9th Annual Father Daughter Ball
- 31 Cortana Celebrates BUGs
- 32 Dyersburg Recognized as Non-Profit of the Year
- 32 Pete the Cat Makes His Way across the District
- 33 Lake Charles Hosts Traditional Mardi Gras Chicken Run
- 33 Houma Kiwanian Responds to Blood Shortage
- 34 Moisant Feeds the Homeless
- 34 New Orleans: Making Children the Heart of Service
- 34 Check out the Memphis Kiwanis Club's Latest Ramp Build
- 35 Opelousas Hosts First Dogs-Only Mardi Gras Parade
- 36 2020 Kiwanis of Pointe Coupee Fishing Tournament
- 36 Pontchartrain Kicks off Bikes for Books Program
- 36 Kiwanis Helps Keep Tupelo Beautiful!
- 37 South Lake Charles Reads Across America with Dr. Seuss
- 37 Southwest Contraband Reads Around the World
- 38 St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Loves Their Terrific Kids!
- 38 The League of Angels Ride in Parade
- 38 Starkville Cooks it up!
- 39 Twin Cities Provides Supplies for Local Animal Shelter
- 39 Union City Continues Reading Program
- 40 Vancleave Helps those in Need at Home of Grace
- 40 Vicksburg Feeds Circle K'ers
- 40 Zachary Kiwanis Celebrates 200+ BUGs!

## BACK COVER

- 41 Share Your Club's News!/Article Deadlines
- 41 District Board of Directors & District Trustees
- 41 District Office Information



## Kiwanis Moments from the Governor

*By R. Bruce Hammatt, Governor*



I just got through opening up my computer and reading the newsletter sent to me by The Kiwanis Club of Third District, New Orleans. Like many others in recent days, it starts off with a news section about how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting some of their membership. The lead article states that twenty-five percent of their members are in the medical field as nurses. Wow, that in and of itself says a lot about their Club!

So, here I am sitting in front of my computer like I have for several mornings wondering when and specifically, what am I going to write about in a short note to my Kiwanis family in LAMISSTENN?

Then I read that newsletter with comments about their nurses. I bet those nurses wish they could relax in front of a computer like I am doing right now and write a letter to some of their friends. Friends they have not seen for a while and some they might not be able to have a dinner with for some time, if ever again.

I can't even imagine what the lives of nurses and doctors on the front line of this pandemic are at this time. I certainly do not propose that I can write about that, but I know it must

be so stressful caring for patients that are sick, and hurting, and crying... Then, after a long day of work, where you find yourself asking if there will be enough gloves and masks for the next day, you prepare to go home. Now you have to face your family, and hope and pray that you do not carry any of that disease on your clothes or body. Certainly do not cough!

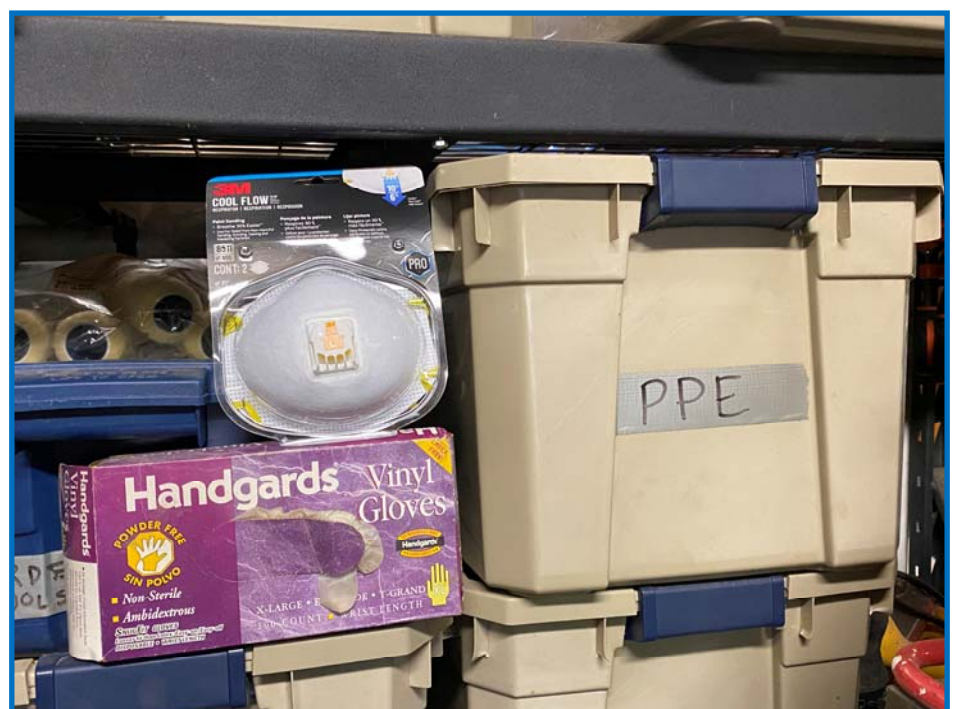
As Kiwanians, we all want to do something to help our community. Remember the term "Res, Non Verba." That is the term used to define Kiwanis International President Daniel Vigneron's slogan for this year. It basically means, "Action, Not Just Words." It is right now that our community needs those words the most.

As I was writing this, a thought ran through my mind. (I seem to have random thoughts go through my mind all the time.) I remembered that my oldest son had helped me out a year or two ago by cleaning up a portion of one of

my sheds. I thought that one of the boxes was labeled "Personal Protective Equipment." I just went out to the shop and lo and behold the box contained, among other items, boxes of latex gloves and N-95 face masks.

We all can do something to help our fellow citizens. We just need to put on our thinking cap, as we always do, and talk to our Club members and come up with a game plan. Have a club meeting on the computer using either GoToMeeting, Zoom, or any of the other tools available to us via the computer. If you are not familiar with these tools, ask a friend, ask a fellow Kiwanian.

Those gloves and masks I just talked about . . . well, they will be dropped off at the hospital right after breakfast to help those nurses and doctors we were talking about caring for the sick in my community. I love my LAMISSTENN Kiwanis Family!



## LOVE IT - Kiwanis

By Eva Abate, Immediate Past Governor

As I am writing this article the World is struggling with the Covid-19 virus. I can see the negative effects that this is having on the financial markets. The panic that this virus has caused and the misinformation that is spreading faster than the virus itself is obstructive. Many of you feel stressed and fearful of the outcome for America. Fear is an emotion which causes physiological changes and ultimately behavioral changes. Stay POSITIVE, we all have so much to be thankful for.

I LOVE the spirit of the entrepreneur. Being creative in the many ways necessary to keep their businesses open. For the local restaurants a list of contact information and access to Pick-Up or Delivery services was published by our Chamber. Employers have mobilized their employees, especially wait staff, to become delivery drivers. Being flexible at this time is crucial to the success of their businesses. We all love to eat out and we need to support our local restaurants at all times. We want to Keep America Moving in a healthy way and well fed.



As Kiwanians we LIVE to serve. What a better way to serve than to check on the health and well-being of our members. Pick up the phone and give them a call, this can brighten your day and theirs too. Keep your conversation positive and reminisce on all the great service your club has accomplished. Take turns and share your “Kiwanis Moments” with one another. Getting to know your club members in a private environment is a good way to realize your common goals. You may discover a service project that can be done from home without the worry of the virus. Think of all the great projects the future will hold. Keep Kiwanis moving forward in a safe way.

SHARE your passions with those

around you. This is a great time to do some thinking about service opportunities that you are passionate about and this will take your mind off of the Covid-19 virus. You may even decide to start a calendar for the future events that you are dreaming of. Incorporate your ideas into the next Board meeting or Club meeting. This time like a “stay at home” order can be a time of retreat. I hope that you have solace when you reflect on your service to the children of your community. Kids still need Kiwanis but we may have to serve them in alternative ways. Contact the schools that you work with and find out if they can use your help. Keep KIWANIS moving forward with service.

**LOVE IT LIVE IT SHARE IT:  
KIWANIS!**

- Eva B Abate



# Planning for the 2020-2021 Year

*By Patrice Cusimano, Governor-Elect*

Spring is a time for new beginnings, and boy oh boy, do I have a lot of things beginning. Although I don't officially begin my term as governor until October 1, 2020, there are a gazillion things to get in place before then.

First up, I have been contacting those who have served as district chairs to see if they want to continue in that position. Many folks are happy doing what they do, and they do a great job. A few who have held the position for many years would like to move on, leaving big shoes to fill. I have been fortunate to have some great Kiwanians step up to fill these positions. The ones leaving are all willing to mentor the new district chairs. I love smooth transitions!

Also on my list is finding lt. governors to serve. Several current lt. governors are willing to serve another term, but others cannot for various reasons. We all have lives outside of Kiwanis – family, work, church – and no one can prioritize another person's life, but we have a real need for people to step up in Divisions 2 (this spot has been vacant for some time), 4B, 5, 8W, 9 and 13. Please consider moving up the leadership ladder for LaMissTenn. I promise you will never regret your term(s) as a lt. governor.

At this point it should be abundantly clear from the need for lt. governors that we also need people to serve as trustees. Thankfully, we currently have a full slate of seven trus-



tees for the 2020-21 year. These three-year terms are rotated on a staggered basis so that all are not replaced at once. Some regions will have vacancies in 2021-22.

And last, but most importantly, only trustees who have fulfilled two years of their term may serve as governor. LaMissTenn Needs You! If this district is to continue to serve the children of our district, we need leaders.

Another issue I'm facing (like the rest of the world) is the effect of Covid19 on the operations of this district. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the tide will have started to turn and our lives will be returning to normal. As of the day I'm writing this, we have had to cancel Key Club District Convention and Circle K officer training and reschedule Key Leader North. Many of our clubs

have suspended meetings. A decision has not yet been made on whether to re-schedule lt. governor training. Also, there is no word yet on International Convention, but Kiwanis International is monitoring the situation. Unless Carnival Cruise Lines cancels our cruise in August, we will still have our District Convention August 6-9.

I think all the talk about illness and death causes some of us to reflect on our own mortality, and this past week hit home with my club. We lost a great Kiwanian, Jim Heyd, to cancer. Jim was a quiet, thoughtful man, who was always ready to lend a hand. Our club will miss him dearly. Also, two other longtime Kiwanians passed recently: Anthony DiBenedetto of the Lakeside Club (Metairie), and Phillip Quartararo of the Early Risers Club (Baton Rouge). It is so hard to lose these valued members of our communities with whom we have worked side by side for so many years. God speed, Jim, Anthony and Phillip, and those of which I am not aware.

That being said, none of us is getting any younger and we all want to get older (consider the alternative). Please, please, please consider stepping up into a new leadership position within your divisions and the district. My journey up the ladder has been amazing – I have met so many new people and have made life-long friendships along the way.

Have a blessed and healthy Easter season and I hope to see all of you soon.

## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

*By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair*

### We have some pretty AWESOME clubs in this District!

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

**THANK YOU** for supporting the LaMissTenn Foundation!

Donations of 37 GIFT BASKETS at 2020 Mid-Winter Conference = **\$2,996**



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1A:</b> Union City(2), Martin(2)  | <b>8E:</b> Cortana(3), Red Stick(2)           |
| <b>1C:</b> Memphis, Millington, Germantown   | <b>9:</b> Southern Hills                      |
| <b>4A:</b> Algiers, New Orleans(2), Pontchartrain, St. Bernard-Arabi, Third District | <b>10C:</b> Starkville(2)                     |
| <b>4B:</b> Thibodaux, Kenner North   | <b>11:</b> Alexandria, Vernon                 |
| <b>8W:</b> Baton Rouge, eLaMissTenn, St. Gabriel                                     | <b>12:</b> Southwest Contraband               |
|  | <b>13:</b> Hammond, Northshore Mandeville     |
|  | <b>14:</b> Gulfport, Long Beach, Orange Grove |
|  | <b>15:</b> The Natchez Trace, Vicksburg       |
|  | <b>17:</b> East St. Mary Parish               |

## Foundation Awards Circle K Scholarships



2019-2020 LaMissTenn  
Circle K Governor  
Kassady Ryder



2019-2020 LaMissTenn  
Circle K Gulf Coast Lt. Gov.  
Madsion Liner

This spring, the District Foundation awarded two scholarships to outstanding Circle K leaders in the amount of \$1,500. This Scholarship Program is designed for Circle K'ers who have achieved academic excellence, demonstrated leadership abilities and provided service to others. The scholarship goes towards the 2020 fall college semester.

Congratulations to Kassady Ryder, LaMissTenn Circle K Governor, attending Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. and Madsion Liner, Lieutenant Governor of the Gulf Coast Division of LaMissTenn Circle K, attending Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La.

Both students maintain a 3.0 or better GPA and exhibit outstanding leadership skills.



# Foundation Awards Key Club Scholarships

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2020 LaMissTenn District Foundation Scholarship program:



An Nguyen Bui  
Chalmette High School  
Chalmette, La.



Abigail Jordyn Chambliss  
Gulfport High School  
Gulfport, Miss.



Emma Soojin Cho  
Benjamin Franklin High  
New Orleans, La.



Tomaso Harry DiRe  
Benjamin Franklin High  
New Orleans, La.



Sherry Grace Dymond  
Gulfport High School  
Gulfport, Miss.



Sophia Mary Galey  
E.D. White Catholic High  
Thibodaux, La.



Allison Haesuh Lee  
Benjamin Franklin School  
New Orleans, La.



Tori Elizabeth Loper  
East Central High School  
Moss Point, Miss.



Hayden Charles Rice  
Terrebonne High School  
Houma, La.



Kaleel George Salloum  
St. Patrick Catholic High  
Gulfport, Miss.







**Kiwaniis District Office**  
 5253-B Dijon Dr.  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393  
 (225) 769-9233 | 866-LAMSWTN  
 foundation@lamisstenn.org  
[www.lamisstenn.org/foundation](http://www.lamisstenn.org/foundation)

## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

### Help Strengthen The Foundation's Endowment Fund

We have had founders of the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Foundation, followed by pioneers forging the dreams of those founders, build the endowment funds bigger and better each year. Your District Kiwanis Foundation has given more funds back to YOU and YOUR CLUBS through grants due to the Endowment Fund. Your continued support CAN and DOES make a difference!

- An annual tax-deductible donation of only \$120 - or make it as easy as a donation of only \$10 per month! Set your "Friends" pledge up on a recurring monthly credit card charge to maintain your status as a **Friend of the Foundation** every year!
- ANYONE, not just Kiwanians, may become a 'Friend of the Foundation.'
- Receive a distinctive **Friend of the Foundation** lapel pin.
- For every \$1,000 donated, you have the choice of River of Life Fellowship, John T. Roberts Fellowship plus other levels thereof.



Sample of lapel pin



### Friend of the Foundation Donor Information Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Kiwanis Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My total gift/pledge is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Remember your \$120 Friends of the Foundation donation is tax deductible.*

#### I wish to make my donation by:

- Check (payable to "Kiwaniis District Foundation")
- Credit Card
- Cash

#### For Credit Card Payments:

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_ Card billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my credit card payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ scheduled (choose one):

- Monthly  Quarterly  Semiannually  Annually

Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MM/YY) (MM/YY)

*Thank you for your generous support of the Kiwanis District Foundation!*



## Key Leader North Rescheduled to September 25-27

*By Linda Ramsey, Key Leader District Committee Chair of the North*

Key Leader North has been rescheduled to September 25-27, 2020 at Camp Lakeshore in Eva, TN. We will be blessed to have Jane Erickson, Past International President as our Lead Facilitator. I have already been in touch with Jane, and she has some exciting things planned. This will be a great year as always to send your students to attend Key Leader North. Students and chaperones may register at [www.wtnkeyleader.org](http://www.wtnkeyleader.org), and registration is open. The deadline to register is September 17, 2020. If you need any local brochures or sponsor brochures, please contact me, and I will be happy to email you that information. If you need educator letters, parent letters, or Kiwanis member letters about Key Leader you can check out the Kiwanis International Website which is [www.key-leader.org](http://www.key-leader.org) and look under resources for information you can download. Also in this month's Kiwanis Magazine is a wonderful article about Key Leader Weekend.

Key Leader Sponsorship Levels	White	Blue	Gold
	Up to \$500	\$500+ - \$999	\$1,000+
Website Presence	x	x	x
Name on Sign at Camp	x	x	x
Name on T-Shirt		x	x
Name on Brochure			x
Special Recognition with larger name on t-shirt & sign			x

When Key Leader started nine years ago in West Tennessee, there were funds that Kiwanis International offered from the Peyton Manning Foundation to provide scholarships for Key Leader Weekend. That funding lasted for a couple of years. Since our region has a high level of children who come from low income and lower middle income families, we have seen the need to provide financial assistance for the kids to attend Key Leader. Since that funding ended, we have been able to provide scholarships from the Kiwanis District Foundation, and sponsorships

from Kiwanis Clubs in our District, other civic organizations, businesses and individuals so that each child could attend at no cost. This year we would like to recognize our scholarship providers and sponsors for their generosity by offering levels of giving. The White, Blue and Gold Sponsorship levels are described above. Please contact me at [lramsey@utm.edu](mailto:lramsey@utm.edu) or 731-225-7729 if you would like for me to contact a business personally to see if they would like to become a sponsor.

Thanks so much for your support of Key Leader weekend!

# KEY LEADER®

A WEEKEND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



# The Challenges of the Current Crisis

By Gary S. Graham, Membership & Engagement Chair and Past Governor

Recently I read a weekly column by Dr. Leonard Ezell, the pastor at my church, that got me thinking about many things and how they apply to Kiwanis. He wrote *“These turbulent days remind me of the New Testament story about Peter on the Sea of Galilee. Peter saw Jesus walking on the water toward his boat; jumped out of the boat, fixed his eyes upon Jesus and walked on water. Then, Peter’s eyes shifted to the waves and with that shift in focus, he plunged into the sea. I am fascinated that Jesus, the boat and the sea all remained constants in this story. The variable was Peter, or in particular, Peter’s eyes. Vision makes all the difference! What do you see? I see challenging times, turbulent times that trouble me and I know trouble you. Society is changing at a break-neck, rapid pace and not always for the better. Institutions we love, including the Church, are declining and suffering. And the growing number of ‘Nones’ (those with-out any religious affiliation) is alarming. I have discovered that, like Peter, when my focus is fixed upon the waves I begin to sink; but when my eyes are focused upon Jesus, I begin to walk in miraculous hope! I plan to meet with groups from a cross-section of BBC to learn from our congregation the answers to these three questions about worship, discipleship, mission, and fellowship: 1. Something we are doing, but should do differently. 2. Something we are not doing, but should. and 3. Something we are doing that should end.”*

I have read much about this phenomenon in society. There are many studies that show service and civic organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions are losing membership as well as churches as noted above. An article ***Why Our Service Organizations Are Dying (and how to fix them)*** by Michael Brand talks about this and proscribes different thinking as does Seth Godin’s TED Talk explains ***Why Creating Tribes Matters***. The gist of both as well as other articles



states that time and bonding with others who have shared ideas and values are what are important today. We must re-think what our clubs mean to those who we wish to attract and carry on the mission of Kiwanis. During this current pandemic, we must maintain the contact with each other, and we can use technology to accomplish this. People are social distancing because that is necessary to stop the spread of Covid-19 but that does not mean we cannot interact with our members and still provide service.

The challenge of this disease is no different than the pandemic of the Spanish flu. Think about it. In the period of January 1918 – December 1920, the flu killed hundreds of thousands across the U.S. and millions around the world. Yet during that time what did Kiwanis accomplish? It bought its freedom from Allen Browne and became a service organization in 1919. The Louisiana-Mississippi District (now Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District) was established. The Memphis, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lake Charles clubs were all established despite the pandemic all around. In the 100 years+ that have passed, society and technology have changed but the need to bond with one another and the need for service have

not diminished. We just need to think differently. We need to stay focused on our vision of service to children and our communities. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by negatives and being afraid to get out of our comfort zones. The current challenges we face show the importance of social interaction. When we social distance we lose a part of what we need as humans when we connect with others. The need for organizations such as Kiwanis and the church have become painfully apparent and we must adjust to make them relevant to today’s society.

So, use technology to stay in touch with your club’s members through things like Zoom and GoToMeeting programs. Help the older, less tech savvy members learn them or at least use a phone to call. The connection is vital to your members and your club. We have a need to contribute to others and the need to maintain our clubs in this difficult time allows for us to do this now. We need to assess our clubs as Dr. Ezell notes he wants our church to do. We need to assess what is: 1. Something we are doing, but should do differently, 2. Something we are not doing, but should, and 3. Something we are doing that should end.

Use the opportunity provided by our current challenges to take a hard look at yourselves and your clubs. We may not be able to do as much service as we have traditionally done it during this time (although there are many novel things we can still do), but use this time to take a hard look at what we can and should do. By doing so we will maintain and strengthen the foundation of our vision as Kiwanians and let us come out of this period stronger than ever.

# ELIMINATE

## maternal/neonatal tetanus



By Dennis & Ame Oliver, Project Eliminate Chairs

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

### The Last Mile is the Hardest



So true with the Kiwanis worldwide service project to ELIMINATE tetanus in the world! So many of you started with Ame and me 10 years ago on this journey. We can't thank you enough, as we did our part to free 27 countries of this horrible, unnecessary disease. Others have come on board since and have hopefully joined the opportunity to save a baby's life for \$1.80 (3 \$.60 shots)!

Ame and I are reaching out to you once again to provide the dollars UNICEF, our partner, needs to continue their efforts in the 12 remaining countries.

Many of these countries are 20-40-70% free and just need work in hard to reach areas. We suggest:

1. Ask every member to save a baby a month (\$1.80 x 12 = \$21.60)
2. Purchase a Walter Zeller for \$750.00 (Regularly \$1,250.00):  
Standard, Past President, or Mother's Day

Please help the best you can in our 2020 effort! These mothers and babies matter.

Mother Theresa said, "I can't do everything, but that which I can, I will!"



### The Wuhan Worry . . . YET

By James A. "Jeems" White, III, Past Governor

Spring is bursting out everywhere **yet** about all anyone can talk about is the Wuhan-Chinese virus, a.k.a. the Coronavirus, a.k.a. COVID-19 . . . whatever is your preferred moniker for it. The virus is a serious problem and we must not underestimate its contagiousness and risks **yet** all this is manageable with common sense and basic principles. There is already a significant impact on the daily lives of people worldwide **yet** life goes on day by day. Illness and deaths have been shocking and have not **yet** peaked. There is a significant economic price being suffered and its full magnitude is **yet** to be known. Perhaps the most frightening part of it is the unknown future of this viral pandemic . . . **yet** "this too shall pass."

**Worry about Wuhan if you must . . . YET** the Kiwanis mission of improving the world through its children must not be diminished. We didn't ignore children when the SARS, MERS, H1N1 and other epidemics inflicted the world. Neonatal tetanus continues to kill newborns. Kiwanis and Unicef have achieved significant positive success with the ELIMINATE project, **yet** we still have work to do.

This Wuhan virus is best side-stepped by avoiding large group gatherings and practicing meticulous hygiene in public places . . . **yet** haven't most people been careful about exposure to sick people all through their lives?

So, yes . . . let's all be careful to stay healthy and avoid Wuhan virus . . . **yet** let us not neglect any of the ways we help children. Like flowers bursting in profusion, like leaves greening the trees, like birds and bees on the wing . . . let us renew our efforts for children like the spring renews plant life. Are not the children of the world the new sprouts and buds of humanity? They are so vulnerable to so many hazards, **yet** they grow to adulthood. Let's work to insure that each new crop of humanity bears fruit.

Worry about Wuhan if you must . . . **yet** keep the faith for our children.



# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup> CHILDREN'S FUND

*By Donna Osburn, Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair*

*Email: [donna@chezosburn.com](mailto:donna@chezosburn.com) • Phone: 601/831-7363*



**Kiwanis**  
CHILDREN'S FUND

**KIDS NEED KIWANIS TO  
REACH HIGHER**

Every year the Kiwanis Children's Fund issues a Presidential Challenge. This requires a District to have at least 50% of their clubs to donate and to increase the District giving by 10% over the last year's amount.

The Great and Historic Louisiana West Tennessee District won the prestigious Presidential Challenge for the 2018-2019 year! This is the first time that we have ever won this award. In fact, our club contributions totaled \$34,980 in unrestricted giving.

The great news is 15% or \$5,247 comes right back to our District Foundation in the form of a grant! We plan to use that grant to completely fund one Key Leader Program for \$2,000 and \$3,247 for Key Club Student Scholarships.

I am really excited about this accomplishment and hope we can do it again this year! Thanks to all the clubs who contributed, and we are counting on you to give again this year. To the clubs who have not participated in the past, we hope you decide this is the year to start giving!

## District Recognition of Lay Person of the Year

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

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

Start planning now to recognize a Lay Person of the Year for the spiritual role models they are in the community. This person can be a Kiwanian but certainly doesn't have to be. Identify your recipient for his or her contributions to your com-

munity through efforts of a "human and spiritual values" nature. In other words, do you see someone making your community better outside their individual church.

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

Send your nominations to: **Court Crow, District Chair, 215 Sand Beach Blvd. # 1407 Shreveport, Louisiana 71105** or [crow52269@aol.com](mailto:crow52269@aol.com). The review committee will need a cover letter from the Kiwanis Club nominating the person and whatever documentation you

can include.

The District will recognize the Lay Person of the Year during the Convention-at-Sea this summer. But we hope the local club will make a special presentation with media coverage in your home town. I hope we have several recommendations from clubs throughout the District.

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



## Sticking the K-Kids' Name out There!

*By Don Eye, K-Kids District Chairman*

A representative from the Kiwanis Store called me the other day wondering what I am doing with all the K-Kids stickers that I have been ordering over the years. Apparently, ordering 1300+ stickers every year appeared strange to the staff. Well, let me tell you the story about my sticker fetish. If you think like a kid, as I do, you will understand the advantage of stickers.

My club has 13 very active SLPs, including five Terrific Kids (TK) programs. Each month we visit the schools and present the Kiwanis message. Each TK gets a small party bag of school supplies, an original style TK certificate, a bumper sticker, a round "I'm a Terrific Kid" sticker, and an

Oreo cookie. We see over 1,300 kids a year. But my favorite use of the stickers is giving them to the little guys at church, airports, fundraisers, shopping centers, and Kiwanis events throughout the year. I started carrying them in my suit coat pocket when I travel. Imagine a mom trying to maintain control with a couple of ankle biters while waiting for the next flight, or in line at the grocery store, etc.

"Hello, my name is Don Eye. I am a Kiwanian. We work with children around the world. May I give your wonderful children a Terrific Kid sticker?" This magic sticker appears, and all is quit. A mom suddenly sees calm children and breathes with relief. A thank

you always comes and the question... What is a Kiwanian? Well, let me tell you...

We need to brag about what we do as Kiwanians, because our mission is unique and helps someone in the world every day. My proudest support to the cause has been as your K-Kids Administrator for these past many years. But I have elected to pass the duties off to a younger Kiwanian with some great qualifications. Please welcome Tiffany Brown as your new LA-MS-TN K-Kids Administrator. We will work together until she gets her feet on the ground. But, I will still have stickers to pass out. Give her the same wonderful support as you have given me.

## K-Bear Makes the Rounds

K-Bear is a great Kiwanian and needs very little care. He is popular with the Madonna Learning Center kids and staff. These are truly terrific Kids.



## Martin K-Kids: Enthusiastic about Learning!

By Anna Clark & Sara Sieber, K-Kids Advisor, Martin Kiwanis Club

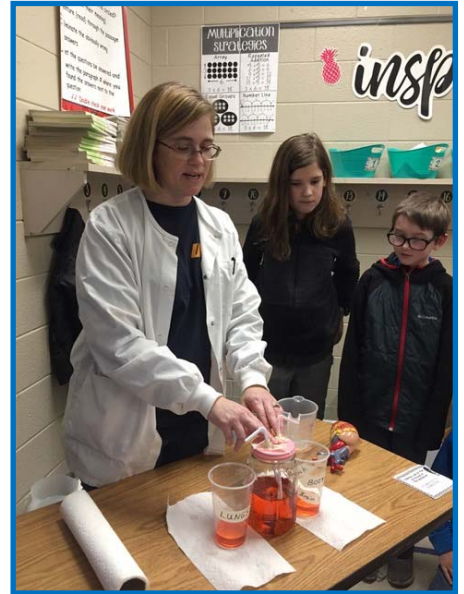
### Learning about Science - A Visit from Dr. Ann Gathers

**Martin Elementary K-Kids** gathered once again in February for an active, informative, and fact-filled meeting. Dr. Ann Gathers, associate professor in the department of biological sciences at UT Martin, gave a presentation/demonstration about the connection between the heart and the lungs.

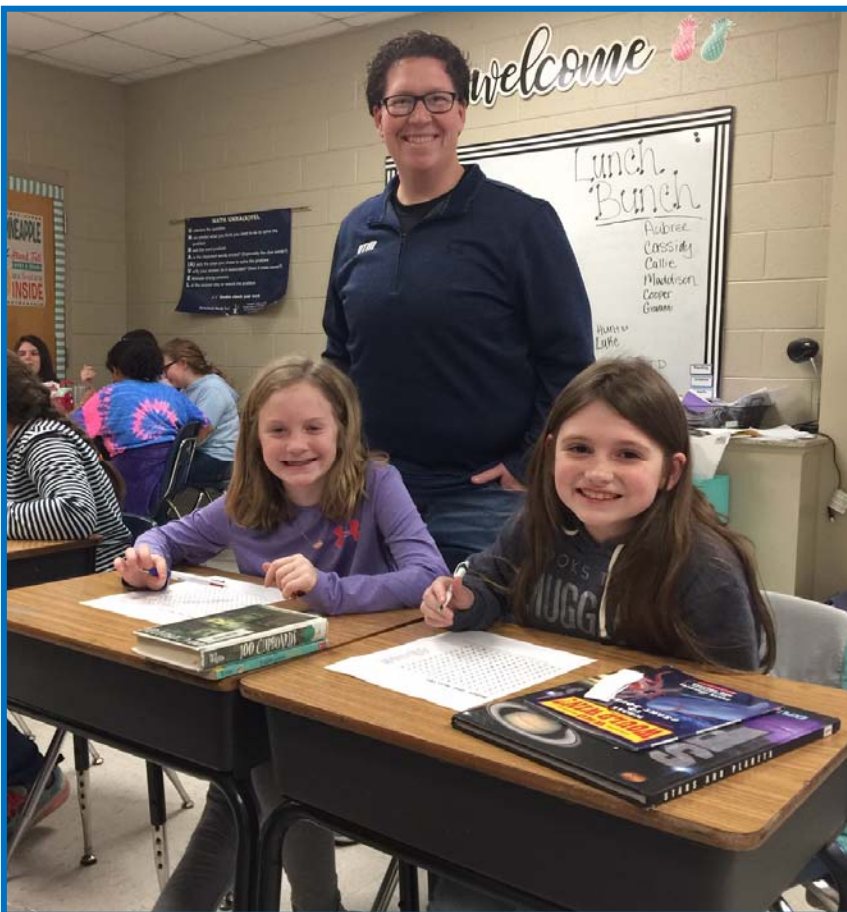
She began with a model of the heart and a demonstration about how the heart pumps blood. By using a Mason jar with red tinted water, a balloon over the neck of the jar, and two straws sealed through the balloon, she showed how pressing on the balloon forced the water through the straws into two cups (lungs). The students also viewed a model of the lungs.

For the second demonstration, she inverted a water-filled two-liter bottle in a basin of water. A smaller student blew through a straw in the neck of the inverted bottle to push water out of the bottle and into the basin. This gave a good measure of the student's lung capacity. This process was repeated with a larger student in order to demonstrate the difference in the lung capacity with size.

Finally, Dr. Gathers showed a pig's heart to the group where they could see the actual heart walls and valves.



### Learning about Muscles and Bones



Laura Taylor, faculty member in the department of health and human performance at UT Martin, visited **Martin Elementary K-Kids** at the January 16 meeting and got most of those third, fourth, and fifth graders out of their seats with exercise and the bouncy burning of excess energy.

Laura and two guests, - Julie Floyd from Nursing and UT Martin HHP major - directed students in the jumps, kicks, and stretches between each slide in the PowerPoint presentation about muscles and bones. Yes, there was a lot of noise and movement along with the learning, but after the exercise, students quietly worked a word search puzzle to underscore information about muscles and bones.

Kiwanian Anna Clark substituted for K-Kids advisor Sara Sieber and led the students in the K-Kids pledge, shared a positive quotation with them ("I'll be your up when you're feeling down"), and introduced the guests.

A great time was had by all!

*Continued on Page 16*

## Central Elementary K-Kids: Service from the Heart

*By Kathryn Moran, Gulfport Kiwanis Club*

Central Elementary is located in Gulfport, MS with a mission to provide a safe, nurturing, and academically rich environment where self-worth is valued, expectations are high, and success is the only option. Our **Central Elementary K-Kids** club has been busy this year with some great service projects. In January, K-Kids packed up meals to give to the homeless population in our community. In February, they created Valentines' Day cards to send to residents of Memorial Driftwood Nursing Center. It's amazing to work with the children in our community and witness their big hearts.



## Martin K-Kids: Enthusiastic about Learning! Continued . . .

### Learning about Soil

Samantha Goyret of the Northwest Tennessee Local Food Network joined 22 K-Kids at **Martin Elementary School** on March 5th to discuss soil science. They learned that planting medium, water, air, and sunlight were required for plant growth.

The students made charts to describe the different types of soil. Stu-

dents viewed cups of rocks, sand, clay, and loam and observed how water moved through each type. As Samantha added water to the cups of soils, the students saw how water percolated slowly or quickly through each type. They saw that loam was best.

Samantha said that in west Tennessee, most of our soil is clay but loam is

far superior for growing vegetables.

Students then decorated small Jiffy pots, assisted in filling the pots with soil, and planted spinach seeds. With proper care, sunlight, and water the spinach seeds should soon germinate.

We live in an agricultural area so learning about soil and plant requisites are very important.

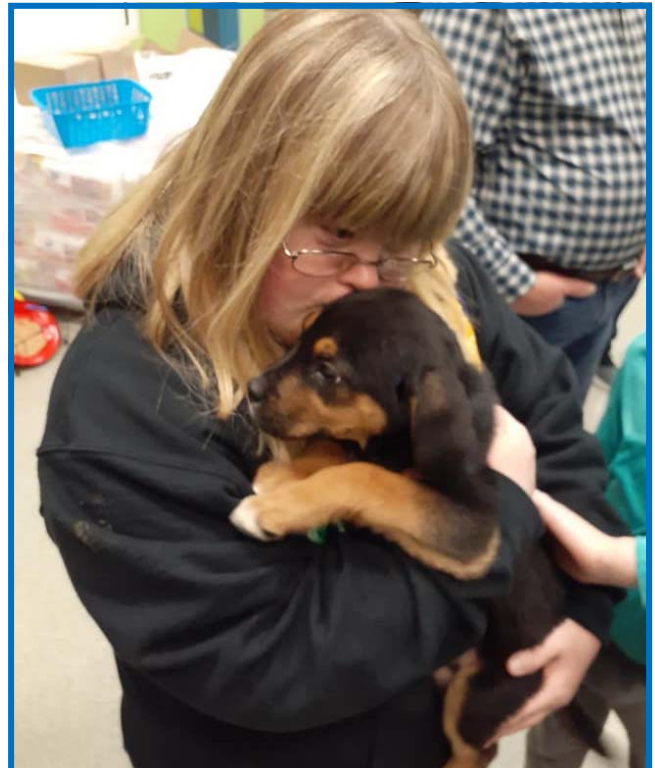




## AKtion Club Volunteers at Humane Society

*South Mississippi AKtion Club Facebook Page*

The **AKtion Club of South Mississippi** had a wonderful time volunteering at the Humane Society of South Mississippi on February 22! The AKtion Club members loved petting and feeding the animals. They can't wait to go back this summer!



## A Mardi Gras Ball for All

*Greater Covington Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The local **Covington High School Key Clubs** hosted the *Fourth Annual Mardi Gras Ball for All - Celebrating All that Makes Us Unique*. The event took place on Saturday, February 29th from 6-8 p.m. at the West St. Tammany YMCA. The event was open and free to anyone with special needs over the age of 13.



## Sending Valentines' Day Love

*East St. Mary Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

On February 10, **Patterson High School Key Club** members made Valentines' Day Cards to be delivered to a local nursing home.



## Zachary Key Clubber Participates in Cooking Challenge

*Zachary Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



In January, **Zachary High School Key Club** member Kierstyn Williams participated in the *Eat Fit Chef Cooking Challenge*.

Besides being delicious, *Eat Fit* items had to meet the nutrition guidelines of the Ochsner *Eat Fit* team, and had to be centered on lean proteins, vegetables, plant-based fats, and whole grains, with no white carbs, minimal added sugar and animal fats.

Congratulations to Kierstyn for stepping up to the challenge. Her creation was delightful, healthy and delicious!

## Successful DCON Held in Vicksburg, MS

*By Emma Dunham, Natchez Trace Lieutenant Governor, LaMissTenn Circle K International*

LaMissTenn's Circle K has recently held their DCON in Vicksburg, MS on February 14-15. As part of the convention there was a service project that involved putting together care packages for soldiers who are being deployed. After some thought, the CKI board decided it would be best to give the packages to a group of servicemen being deployed directly from Mississippi. When asking Emma Dunham, Natchez Trace Lieutenant Governor and media chairmen, her experience from the event, this was her take away:

To Whom It May Concern:

If you were asked to describe service, what would your description be? Everybody has a different description, but one thing that can be agreed upon is that service is done from the heart. Our project, if looked at on paper, was the act of service performed by gathering supplies and packing boxes, but what words on a paper do not show is the service that we did was rooted in each member's heart.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, a pair of socks, activity books, a bar of soap, and handwritten colored cards designed by Community Service Made Easy were donated/bought to pack up 102 boxes for the Mississippi National Guard. Every box that was packed at the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Circle K District Convention is going to a soldier being deployed to Poland soon. Our District Governor, Kassady Ryder, was able to hand deliver all 102 boxes to two of the National Guard soldiers being sent to Poland.

The cards from Community Service Made Easy were perfect for the boxes. Convention participants were able to color and make the cards special for each box. The process of packing the boxes was very simple. There were a few tables set up and convention participants stood on each side of the tables. On one end of the table, the "assembly line" began passing empty boxes. As the boxes traveled the table, participants placed the items we collected in them. At the oppo-

site end of the table is where the now packaged boxes were picked up and placed in a group on the floor. After being placed on the floor, the District Board put one specialized, colored card in each box. The boxes were closed and stacked. During the clean up process, the stacked boxes were counted and loaded up into Governor Kassady's car for delivery to the Mississippi National Guard.

Members appreciated the service project because they knew that their service was directly impacting somebody. The project got the attention of a couple dentistry offices, as well. Overall, this was a successful service project that LaMissTenn will remember forever.

Service can be defined by everybody in a different way, and the service the LaMissTenn CKI District performed touched many hearts, and the impact it has made is one that will not be forgotten.

Kind Regards,

Emma Dunham



## Cortana Hosts Pet Parade at Assisted Living Facility

*By Donna Leggett, President, Cortana Kiwanis Club*

The Cortana Kiwanis Human and Spiritual Values Committee hosted a Mardi Gras/Valentine's Day event at the Garden View Assisted Living facility on Jones Creek Road on February 12, in Baton Rouge. Members attended with their adorable fur babies dressed to suit and handed out Valentine's Day goodies and Mardi Gras beads. The hands-on interaction with the residents brought smiles to their faces and request to come back again.



## Hammond Provides Happy Packs for Happy Hearts

*By Judy & Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club*



*Hammond Kiwanis Club member Judy Couvillion is showered with hugs from happy students excited to receive Happy Packs.*

Veteran members of Kiwanis Clubs who have spent many hours performing community service will sometimes speak of what has come to be known as a “Kiwanis Moment.” It’s that magical feeling that happens when Kiwanians realize that something really good and rewarding has been accomplished.

Over the past nine years members of the **Kiwanis Club of Hammond** have had regular “Kiwanis Moments,” as they pursued the club’s signature community service project; the Hammond Kiwanis Happy Pack Program that provides, on a weekly basis, some basic food items for young school children who might otherwise have noth-

ing to eat on weekends.

Just ask Judy Couvillion about such a “moment” who, when walking into one of the classrooms where the backpacks are distributed, was overwhelmed by the entire class running up to hug her and say, “It’s the Happy Pack Lady! We Love You!”

Or ask Andy Thomas, a Kiwanian who was swarmed by another class and embraced while hearing “thank yous!” over and over again.

It has become quite common to have little children who are shopping with their parents to recognize a Kiwanis member and exclaim, “It’s a Happy Pack person!”

The seeds for the Kiwanis Happy Pack Program were sown in 2011, when club members Sid Guedry and Vic Couvillion, while attending the La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. District Convention, learned of a program that had as its focus the providing of some basic food items for young school children who had little to eat on weekends when they were away from their regular school meals.

The two took the message back to their club and it was agreed by the club’s board of directors that such a program could be of service at some of the schools in Hammond.

Several members of the club met with the principal of Midway Elementary School where Terrific Kids and B.U.G.s programs were already offered to determine how a food back pack program could make a special impact on the students.

The principal said that teachers had noticed that when some of the students returned to classes on Monday morn-



*Eleven years ago the Hammond Kiwanis Club launched its Hammond Kiwanis Happy Pack Program at Midway Elementary.*

## Hammond Provides Happy Packs Continued . . .



*Kiwanian Arlene Anzalone pushes a load of "happy packs" the first year the program was moved to Woodland Park School.*

ings they were listless, lethargic and not attentive. It was discovered that the youngsters were hungry because they had had nothing to eat over the weekend...possibly because the mother or father was working and not at home or they were being raised by a grandparent or an aunt who might not have been able to prepare a meal or provide a snack for them. These students were largely dependent on the free school breakfasts and lunches for their sustenance.

It was at this time that the Hammond Kiwanis Club decided to begin the Hammond Kiwanis Happy Pack Program. For that initial program, Hammond Kiwanians provided backpacks to 40 students. While the program was well received, the school's administrators decided that because of limited space in the school the program had to be terminated after the first year.

Convinced of the need for the Happy Pack program, the club found a "new home" at Woodland Park School

where the outreach effort has flourished and has grown over the years. A deep appreciation for this service by the school's administration has resulted in the club's having to expand the program on a regular basis.

In 2017, the number of backpacks given out was expanded to 116. For the 2019-20 school year, that number ballooned yet again and the club has been providing 160 of the backpacks.

Each backpack contains 10 food and drink items. After some consideration, the back pack committee determined what items were most likely to be appealing to a child, would be easy to prepare, and would at least satisfy some basic food needs.

Those items are: Vienna Sausages, Ramen noodles, Pop Tarts, pudding, apple sauce, crackers, a candy snack, boxed fruit juice and a pouch drink.

The club also adds a book to each back pack. At the beginning of the school year, a note to the parents of the children who receive the backpacks, asks that the books be returned. However, club members learned that many families have absolutely no books in the home so if a child chooses to keep the book, nothing is said.

To sustain the Happy Pack Program the Kiwanis Club relies on a major fundraiser, the Tour de Tangipahoa Bicycle Ride and two minor fundraisers, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival where non-alcoholic daiquiris are sold, and a community-wide Trivia Night.

In the early years of the program a grant through the District Foundation assisted in supporting the program financially.

Judy Couvillion, the chief "buyer" of the commodities that are loaded into the backpacks, is a judicious shopper who uses coupons collected by her and fellow members that offer \$5 savings for every \$25 spent at local dollar stores, has come to be known as the "Vienna Sausage Lady" by store employees who recognize her buying huge quantities of the food items destined for the backpacks.

A young cashier once asked Judy Couvillion where the program was being conducted. When told it was Woodland Park she said, "My son receives one of them and I want to personally thank you. Without that food he would not have anything to eat while I am working."



*Longtime Hammond Kiwanian Dr. Pat Settoon and Judy Couvillion replenish backpack supplies.*

## Hammond Provides Happy Packs Continued . . .

A local agency that serves individuals with disabilities has donated space where the food items are stored until they are brought to the school where the “packing” takes place every Thursday morning. Club members, augmented by volunteers from time to time, have a good time loading the backpacks.

Each classroom has been assigned special large plastic “tubs” that hold the backpacks. Each tub is color coded and each backpack is given a tag with a number and a colored marker that indicates to which class a pack recipient belongs.

The backpacks are then delivered to each classroom where they are distributed by the teacher on Fridays. The pupils, who are pre-K and kindergarteners, bring the backpacks back on Mondays and Tuesdays of the next week where they are gathered by Kiwanis volunteers and readied for re-packing.

At Christmas, the club makes up special gift packets that assure that each child will have at least a small gift for the holiday season. The teachers are also given a gift by the Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanians involved in the program frequently remark that their participation has been one of the most rewarding contributions that have made to the



*Happy smiles grace the faces of “Happy Pack” recipients delivered by Hammond Kiwanian Andy Thomas.*

community since joining the club.

“The smiles we see on the faces of the little children when we bring the backpacks into the classrooms on Thursday mornings are priceless. Isn’t this what Kiwanis is all about... improving the world one child at a time?” said Mayson Foster, a veteran Kiwanian who is active in the program.

“It just feels good knowing that we are making a difference in the lives of 160 little children every week. Even though we don’t know the names of

the children we serve, we know that we are bringing a ray of sunshine, a token of appreciation into their young lives,” said Kiwanian Jack Battaglia.

The program has earned the blessings of the principal and staff at the school who always welcome community involvement in the schools which are charged with giving the children an education that will help determine the future course of their lives.

Since the Hammond Kiwanis Happy Pack Program began over 11 years ago, thousands of students have received food items that help them stay nourished over the weekend when they have limited or no food resources at all.

The Backpack Program has become especially treasured by the Hammond Kiwanis Club and its members and more importantly by the children who know that there is someone out there who cares. In the final analysis, that makes the whole effort more than worthwhile.



*Kiwanis members Vic Couvillion, Jack Battaglia, Mayson Foster and John Bergeron load a week’s supply of food into backpacks.*

## Action at the Pinewood Derby with Martin Kiwanis

*By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club*

**Martin Kiwanis** supports Cub Scouts in many ways, and four Kiwanians were on location for action this year at the Pinewood Derby, held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, in the Martin Church of Christ Activities Building. The Kiwanians helped with greeting scouts and their families, weighing-in the cars, and judging. In the picture at the left, Cub Scout and K-Kid Blaine Newsome checks the weight of his car. In the second picture, Cub Scout and K-Kid Charlie Walden adds graphite to the wheels of his car, one that he named Fire and Ice, before he heads to have the car weighed. Charlie is assisted by Barry Tuck, cub master of Pack 37. Eighteen cars were entered in competition this year. Kiwanis member Steve Lemond is the charter organization representative and assistant cub master. Pack 37 has been sponsored by the Martin Kiwanis Club since 1971.



## Tupelo Celebrates Presidents' Day

*By R. Fred Pitts, Past Governor, Tupelo Kiwanis Club*

To celebrate President's Day, the **Tupelo Kiwanis Club** invited all Past Presidents to its Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Kiwanis meeting. Each attendee was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Tupelo Club. Eighteen of those present are still members of Tupelo Kiwanis as well as the two not pictured.



*Seated: Charles Johnston, LE Gibens, Judge Glyn Davidson, Rob Leake, Guy Mitchell, President Elect Pam Hadley, President Gena Nolan, LF Sams, & Aubrey Patterson. Standing Claude Clayton, Jr., Richard Crenshaw, Glenn McCullough, Larry Stewart, George Taylor, Rick Maynard, Pat Caldwell, Wilson Long, Chris Rogers, David Brevard, Sonia Jenkins, Trentice Imbler, Chauncey Godwin, Rick Hill, Jack Reed, & Lynn Bryan. Not pictured Piggy Caldwell & R. Fred Pitts.*



## Divisions 8E & 8W Presidents' Council Meeting

*By Laura Gilliland, Division 8E Lieutenant Governor, Red Stick Kiwanis Club*

Kiwanis LAMISSTENN Divisions 8E and 8W met for a Presidents' Council Meeting from 9AM until noon Saturday, January 25th at Neighbors Federal Credit Union on Perkins Road near Siegen Lane. Mardi Gras was the theme . . . Laissez Le Bon Temps Rouler! LAMISSTENN Governor R. Bruce Hammatt spoke about the progress of the Kiwanis House and the importance of attending conferences and conventions. First Lady Joy Hammatt shared her project of reading *Pete the Cat* to several hundred . . . eventually a few thousand prekindergarten students. Past Governor and Membership Chair Gary Graham

spoke about chartering new clubs, recruiting new members, and retaining new members. Executive Director Charlie Ford addressed making donations to the district foundation, when dues should be sent in, and when officers are to be elected and reported. Trustee Michele Crosby shared information about service projects and inter-clubs. Trustee and Coach Kim Epling Champagne gave valuable information about coaching services available to struggling clubs or clubs encountering problems. All clubs who attended shared the service projects that they're actively involved in for 2019-2020. A drawing for

seven door prizes was then conducted by LAMISSTENN Executive Director Charlie Ford. Sponsors for this meeting were Billy Heroman's Perkins South who provided beautiful Mardi Gras floral arrangements 225-478-1900, Ambrosia Bakery who donated delicious king cakes 225-763-6489, DJ Robert 'Bob' Blanchard provided Mardi Gras music 225-806-3900, and Neighbors Federal Credit Union provided the venue, coffee, soft drinks/waters, paper products, notepads, pens, and bag clips . . . thanks to Gary LaBauve.



## St. Gabriel Collaborates with First Lady

*By Milisa York, St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club*



The St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club, with the help of our wonderful First Lady, Joy Hammatt, took the club's reading program for the PreK children of MSA East, to another level! Joy Hammatt's project as our First Lady is "Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes!" She was not only kind enough to donate forty books but she took time out of her busy schedule to come to MSA East and read to the Pre-K children! Our own John Drinkwater, Melvin Lodge and Jesse Thomas came out to support this event. Special thank you to our own Milisa York who started this reading program and to her daughter, Kayla York, and Rise Green who provided the cupcakes and juice for the children.

## Red Stick Kiwanis Recognizes Featured Members

*By Laura Gilliland, Division 8E Lieutenant Governor, Red Stick Kiwanis Club*

Gerard Ruth, charter member of the **Kiwanis Club of Red Stick** was named the recipient of the Golden Deeds Award Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza. The Golden Deeds Banquet is sponsored by the Inter-Civic Council of Greater Baton Rouge and The Advocate newspaper. It is said to be one of the most prestigious awards in the Greater Baton Rouge Area.



*Pictured above from left to right are 2019 President of Inter-Civic Council of Greater Baton Rouge & 2018-2020 LAMISSTENN Lt. Governor Division 8E Laura Gilliland, Golden Deeds Recipient Gerard Ruth, and his wife.*

Don Wiseman was inducted into Red Stick Kiwanis January 28, 2018. His sponsor was Lt. Governor of Division 8E Laura Gilliland. He is the owner of Don Wiseman Home Repair and Maintenance, LLC (225-287-3910) which serves Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas. He has taken on many responsibilities since joining Red Stick, one of which is serving on the Board. In addition, he has tirelessly worked at the Poinsettia Sale and has come up with a more streamlined plan to distribute nearly 1,000 plants the first Saturday of December. Using his expertise in woodworking, Don made Red Stick a beautiful new cypress podium for the guest speakers. For the past two years, Don has made the wooden plaque bases for second and third place awards at the annual golf classic. In Don's words, "I am so proud to be a Kiwanian which enables me to make a difference in the lives of children and those less fortunate."

*Pictured to the right is Don Wiseman with his beautiful cypress podium he built for the Red Stick Kiwanis Club's guest speakers.*



*Todd Breaux receives the West Baton Rouge Chamber Ambassador of the Year Award.*

Todd Breaux was inducted into Red Stick Kiwanis on August 8, 2018. His sponsor was Red Stick President Gary LaBauve. Todd is a dual member, as he also is a member of Cortana Kiwanis. He is Relationship Manager at Heartland Payment Systems (985-513-1809). Since joining Red Stick Kiwanis, he has been involved in cooking jambalaya for the golf classic, tirelessly helping at the poinsettia distribution, attending/driving members to conventions, and planning fun day outings. Red Stick is so proud of his recent accomplishment of being named West Baton Rouge Chamber Ambassador of the Year. Todd is always willing to help in any way he can, and he takes the Kiwanis motto seriously "...Improving the world one child and one community at a



## Southwest Lafayette Hosts 36th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet

*By Breannie Charles, Southwest Lafayette Kiwanis Club*



*Kiwanis Southwest Lafayette members at 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet.*

On February 29, 2020, **Kiwanis Southwest Lafayette** hosted its 36<sup>th</sup> annual Scholarship and Awards banquet. The banquet is hosted each year to award 3 college scholarships to outstanding local high school seniors based on their scholastic achievement and community service and to recognize exceptional Kiwanis club members and members of the local community.

Our scholarship award recipients included Kammie Flugence of Northside High School, Monica Kincade of Lafayette High School, and Montel Mercier of Cecilia High School.

Our Outstanding Citizen Award highlights an extraordinary individual based on their contributions and service to the local community. This year's recipient is Mrs. Brenda Andrus of

Lafayette, La. The Outstanding Public Safety Officer Award recognizes a public safety officer for their service and commitment to the local community. This year's recipient is Ms. Heather Martin, Lafayette Police Department Cpl. Our club also recognized Ms. Veronica Benoit of Lafayette, LA for her service to Kiwanis Southwest Lafayette by dedicating her time to helping with our club's events.

Lastly, our Kiwanian of the Year award recognizes our top club member for their outstanding dedication and service while upholding the mission and values of Kiwanis. This year's award recipient is Stanford Charles, current club Secretary, past club President, and past Division 7 Lieutenant Governor. Kiwanis Southwest Lafayette is proud to acknowledge and honor the remarkable members of our community and club.

**1.** Scholarship recipient, Kammie Flugence, Northside High School & Club President-Elect Breannie Charles



**2.** Scholarship recipient, Monica Kincade, Lafayette High School & Club Member Michael Hebert



**3.** Outstanding Citizen Award recipient, Brenda Andrus & Club Member George Williams



**4.** Kiwanian of the Year recipient, Stanford Charles & Club Member Johnfort Bernard



**5.** President's Special Recognition Award recipient, Veronica Benoit & Club President Consuella Charles



**6.** Outstanding Public Safety Officer Award recipient, Heather Martin & Club Member Robert Benoit



## Tupelo Provides Indoor Playground for Autism Center

*By R. Fred Pitts & Brad Prewitt, Tupelo Kiwanis Club*



The **Tupelo Kiwanis Club** recently raised \$28,000 and received a District Foundation grant in the amount of \$7,000 to provide an indoor playground for the Autism Center of North Mississippi in Tupelo. Funds were raised through the club's first Annual Halloween costume party, "Costumes and Cocktails", a silent auction, and special corporate contributions and event sponsorships. The club decided to provide an indoor playground for the center because

North Mississippi has a growing, underserved population of Autistic children. The Autism Center of North Mississippi in Tupelo is the only service of its type in this northern portion of the state, and it possesses a facility which works with children and families to help ease the burdens of this condition and to hopefully enable the children, when grown, to possess some level on independence and functionality in everyday life. The Center has a number of teaching and therapeutic rooms, but the facility lacked an indoor playground through which the children could obtain physical therapy in a fun, recreational setting versus a clinical setting. Having an indoor playground not only expanded the therapy platform but it also allows more services to be offered. Having functional, independent and happier kids who confront and overcome their challenges were the objectives by which this investment was measured.



*Tupelo Kiwanis Club President Gena Nolan tests out the rock climbing wall.*

Can you put a price on that? Hardly! Tupelo Kiwanis decided this was a priceless project that was very much needed and many dedicated club members made it happen!



## Acadiana Helps Moms and Babies

*Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



The Baby & Me Boutique very much appreciates Rusty Ruckstuhl, Bill Penny and Bruce Sawvel for delivering baby supplies and donations after weekly **Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis Club** meetings. Club members have been collecting diapers, wipes and supplies in hopes these donations help improve the world for these babies as they start out in life.

The Baby & Me Boutique is a Children's Resale Shop that operates through donations. The Boutique accepts new or gently used items such as: baby strollers,

car seats, cribs, bikes, children's clothing (infant to pre-teen), maternity clothing, school uniforms, books, shoes, socks, blankets, bibs, toys, diapers (newborn - 5's) and seasonal items. They are sold at give-away prices. The money is used to support young mom's through the *DesOrmeaux Foundation* ministry, as well as help young mothers in the area.

The *DesOrmeaux Foundation* is a community outreach program providing both help and hope for pregnant mothers in the Acadiana area.

## Baton Rouge Kiwanis in Action!

*Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**The Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge** has been busy! From participating in the Read Across America Program and implementing the First Lady Project of reading *Pete the Cat* in Pre-K classrooms to serving lunch to the less fortunate at the St. Vincent de Paul dining room and hosting a Cub Scout Pack party with lessons and fun science activities, club members have been having fun while improving the world one child and one community at a time!



# Camellia City, Slidell Helps with Food Drive

*Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Camellia City, Slidell** had a great morning on February 1st. In just two hours at Community Christian Concern-Janet's Korner ThriftStore-Miramonte Center's food bank, club members collected five baskets of food and raised \$120 in donations to help keep many bellies full. Thank you to our community for being so generous!



# Corinth Host 9th Annual Father Daughter Ball

*Corinth Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Corinth Kiwanis Club** hosted the 9th Annual Father Daughter Ball on February 8th and it was amazing! Daughters and dads experienced a wonderful night of dancing, food and fun with a special guest line up of many Disney princesses.



# Cortana Celebrates BUGs

*Cortana Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The Cortana Kiwanis Club celebrated Bringing up Grades with students at Broadmoor Elementary by hosting a super fun BUGs party with a photo booth provided by Premier Sound Services. BUGs is a program designed to provide recognition to students who raise their grades to an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next. Recognition included being placed on the schools BUGs honor roll, BUGs pins, treats, and presentation of certificates. Over eighty students in the third, fourth and fifth grades were honored with this special party. Cortana Kiwanis is so proud of its Lil Bugs! Cortana Club Volunteers at the BUGs party were: Pam Smith Morgan, Margaret Hodges, Wanda Magee, Heather Folks Givens, Debbie Salvant, Jo Ellen and Jim Frederick, Keith and Tammy McDavid, Donna Leggett, Bob Blanchard, Brent Phillips and Arlene Sutton.



## Dyersburg Recognized as Non-Profit of the Year

*Dyersburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Dyersburg Kiwanis Club** members were honored to receive the 2019 Non-Profit of the Year award during the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Awards Banquet in February.



## Pete the Cat Makes His Way across the District

*Greater Haughton Kiwanis Club & Blanchard Kiwanis Club Facebook Pages*

LaMissTenn Kiwanis First Lady Joy Hammatt's project, *Pete the Cat*, is making its way across the district! Ms. Gill's Pre-K class at Haughton Elementary School received *Pete the Cat* books donated by the **Kiwanis Club of Greater Haughton**! And the **Kiwanis Club of Blanchard** recently gave every Pre-K student at North Caddo Elementary School their very own copy of *Pete the Cat* as well! Pre-K students are loving learning their colors and singing along with *Pete* in this wonderful early learning literacy project.

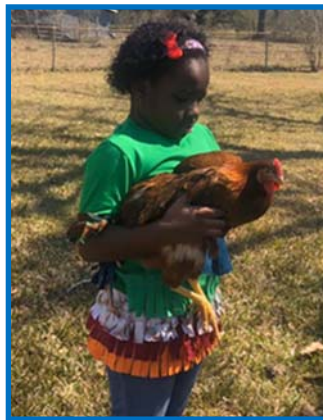




# Lake Charles Hosts Traditional Mardi Gras Chicken Run

*Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In February, **Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** member Ron Richard hosted a fun filled day for some Henry Heights Elementary kids. The kids enjoyed a hayride, games, food, chicken run, pig catching, and more! Thanks to Steve Ek, Jim James Meyer, Libby Fernandez Leone and Wendy Marcantel for helping the kids have a great time!



## Houma Kiwanian Responds to Blood Shortage

*Houma Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



In January, **Houma Kiwanis Club** member George Robichaux responded to Terrebonne General Medical Center's call for blood donations. Thank you to the many Kiwanians who have responded to the blood shortage during this critical time of need.

# Moisant Feeds the Homeless

*Moisant Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

February 6th turned out to be a beautiful day for **Moisant Kiwanis Club** members and friends to feed the homeless.



# New Orleans: Making Children the Heart of Service

*New Orleans Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

This past February, **Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** members volunteered at the Kid's Zone at the Horses, Hops, & Cops event and even made a new friend! Members also sorted beads for the Children's Hospital.

Some of the patients were able to ride in the Mardi Gras Parade, "Krewe of Kings". All beads with specific logos could not be thrown, so those beads were delivered to ARC to be resold for their bead program . . . two great projects in one night!



# Check out the Memphis Kiwanis Club's Latest Ramp Build!

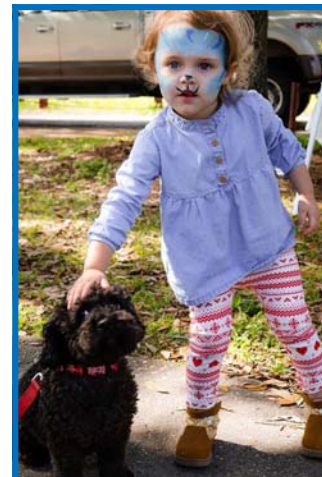
*Memphis Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



# Opelousas Hosts First Dogs-Only Mardi Gras Parade

*Opelousas Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The Opelousas Kiwanis Club sponsored the First Annual *Krewe des Chien des Opelousas*, a dogs-only Mardi Gras parade, on Saturday, February 8th in South City Park. The event was a successful fundraiser for the club.



## 2020 Kiwanis of Pointe Coupee Fishing Tournament

*Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Thank you to all of our Fishermen, volunteers, sponsors, and to all who came out to support the **Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee's** Annual Fishing Tournament on March 15. What a beautiful day it was. All made for a successful fundraiser for the club to help the youth in the area.



## Pontchartrain Kicks off Bikes for Books Program

*Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Pontchartrain Kiwanis** members Myra Lewis and Deidre Charlot talked to second and third grade students at St. Mary's Academy as they started up this semester's Bikes for Books program on Friday, January 17th.



## Kiwanis Helps Keep Tupelo Beautiful!

*Tupelo Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In February, an awesome group of **Tupelo Kiwanis Club** members showed up for the garbage pick-up challenge! What a great way to spend a couple of hours on Saturday morning!



# Kiwanis Participates in Reading Programs

*South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club and Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club Facebook Pages*

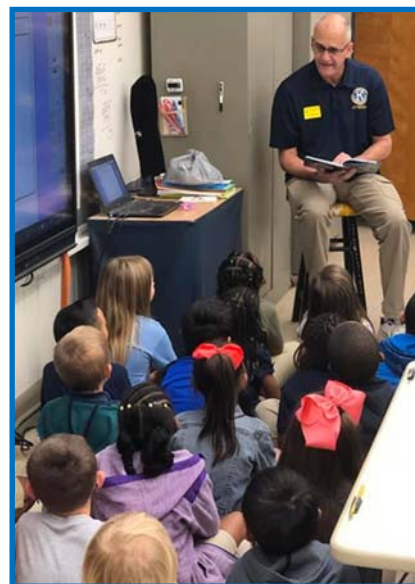
## South Lake Charles Reads Across America with Dr. Seuss

On Monday, March 2, **Kiwanis Club of South Lake Charles** members Wayne and Jack participated in the Doctor Seuss reading at Nelson Elementary. Each year, National Read Across America Day is celebrated on March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.



This motivational and awareness day calls all children and youth in every community across the United States to celebrate reading. Great ways to inspire reading in children include:

- Keep books everywhere you spend time. Put them in the car, in every room of the house and tuck them in backpacks and purses. Make them easily accessible.
- Visit the library often. Knowing how to use the library and learning the benefits of a library fosters a love of reading as well as a genuine respect for the services libraries provide.
- Get caught reading. Children imitate what they see the adults around them do. Whether they see you read a magazine, newspaper or novel, let them know reading is the cool thing to do.
- Read to your children. No matter



their age, reading aloud strengthens their vocabulary and language skills. It also opens up opportunity for discussion.

- Have your children read to you, too. You never know what you might learn!

## Southwest Contraband Reads Around the World

The **Kiwanis Club of Southwest Contraband** awarded the top AR Reader in 1st and 2nd grade at MJ Kaufman Elementary with a kindle fire tablet. Also, members read to the Pre-K and Kindergarten students Dr. Seuss Books on March 2.



# St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Loves Their Terrific Kids!

*St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



## The League of Angles Ride in Parade

*St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In February, the **St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis** hosted *The League of Angels* in Knights of Nemesis Social Club and Parade. Ten children rode with Kiwanis members in the perfect weather.



## Starkville Cooks it up!

*Starkville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Starkville's** master chef and charter member Charles Weatherly stirs the Brunswick stew for the *Casserole Kitchen*, a ministry that provides nutritional meals for those in need and fellowship. And, again Kiwanis and Knights of Columbus teamed together for another successful Super Bowl Gumbo Fundraiser.



## Twin Cities Provides Supplies for Local Animal Shelter

*The Twin Cities Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In February, **The Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** members helped with a South Fulton Middle/High School Beta Club project involving local animal shelters. Members donated blankets and towels that will be utilized at shelters to keep the animals warm and cozy. Thanks to Brandi S. Cantrell and her Beta Club members for helping out so much in our community!



## Union City Continues Reading Program

*Union City Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In March, **Union City Kiwanis Club** member Tracy Shaw took time out of her busy schedule to read to students at Miles Head Start as part of the club's Reading Program. Earlier in February, Club President-Elect Jeff Vowell had visited Miles Headstart for the reading program as well with new member Delinda Scarborough Goad who was showered with hugs.



# Vancleave Helps those in Need at Home of Grace

*Vancleave Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Vancleave's** 2020 Service Project was to provide 4 fully stocked Duffle Bags for every client in need at the Home of Grace, an addiction recovery center, each quarter. For over 50 years, the Home of Grace has served as a beacon of hope for those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction.



## Vicksburg Feeds Circle K'ers

*Vicksburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Vicksburg Kiwanians** fed the Circle K'ers who attended their District Convention in Vicksburg this past February. Thanks to Mark Stevens for cooking the Red Beans and to the Biscuit Company for donating the Rice and Cornbread.



## Zachary Kiwanis Celebrates 200+ BUGs!

*Zachary Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Zachary Kiwanis Club** members celebrated 200+ 2nd graders who brought up their grades or maintained straight A's for the 1st Semester of the 2019-2020 school year at Rollins Place Elementary!





# Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, District Bulletin Editor

## Submit your article or photographs:

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

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

## DEADLINES:

The deadline for article submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. Here are the deadlines for the 2020:

**July 2020 Issue = Deadline: June 16, 2020**

**October 2020 Issue = Deadline: September 15, 2020**

**January 2021 Issue = Deadline: December 17, 2020**

### Include this information:

**CLUB:** Club, Division Number, and Author

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

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

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

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

**Keep in mind, the cover photograph for the District News Magazine will be selected based on clarity, action and emotion.**

**We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!**



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

## **2019-2020 LA.-MISS.-W. TENN. DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Governor . . . . .** R. Bruce Hammatt

**Governor - Elect . . . . .** Patrice Cusimano

**Immediate Past Governor . . . . .** Eva Abate

**Executive Director . . . . .** Charles H. Ford

### **DISTRICT TRUSTEES:**

#### **Region I**

Claude Vinson, *Germantown, Tenn.*

#### **Region II**

Jason Spears, *Columbus, Miss.*

#### **Region III**

Barbara McCay, *Orange Grove, Gulfport, Miss.*

#### **Region IV**

Alfred G. Lotz, Jr., *Third District, New Orleans, La.*

#### **Region V**

Michele Crosby, *Denham Springs, La.*

#### **Region VI**

Kimberly Champagne, *Acadiana-Lafayette, La.*

#### **Region VII**

James Leggett, III, *Alexandria, La.*

### **DISTRICT OFFICE INFORMATION:**

Charles Ford, Executive Director:

[charlie@lamisstenn.org](mailto:charlie@lamisstenn.org)

Tiffany Domingue, Administrative Assistant:

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

Phone: 225-769-9233

Toll Free: 866-526-7986 (LAMSWTN)

Fax: 225-769-9215

Toll Free Fax: 866-669-9215

[districtoffice@lamisstenn.org](mailto:districtoffice@lamisstenn.org)

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

### **MAILING ADDRESS:**

La.-Miss.-W. Tenn. Kiwanis District Office

5253-B Dijon Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393

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